THE TIMES

No. 65,796

SATURDAY JANUARY 25 1997

EAT OUT FOR

Jonathan Meades introduces our nationwide restaurant offer. See PAGE 39 in the MASAZINE THE AFFAIR

Melvyn Bragg on why he fell out of love with America



Alan Jackson meets Liv Tyler MAGAZINE

QUIDS IN A beginner's guide to the stock market in

WEEKEND

MONEY

रशहः साग्रह FOR ONLY EVERY NOUDAY

PLUSTON Howard denies QC's collusion claim

Prison staff accused of aiding escape

OFFICERS at the maximum security Whitemoor Prison cut perimeter fences to help five robber in an escape that led to a complete review of prison security, a leading barrister claimed yesterday.
Michael Mansfield, QC, ac-

cused prison guards of colluding with the IRA and demanded a new public inquiry into the breakout from the Cambridgeshire prison's spe-

cial secure unit. He was speaking after the trial of the six escapers was abandoned because of a potentially prejudicial newspaper report — a decision that prompted the Home Secretary to announce moves to give prosecutors the right to appeal

when judges halt proceedings. Michael Howard also demanded that Mr Mansfield produce evidence to back up his allegations, which were dismissed by the Prison Officers' Association as "completely ridiculous".

Mr Mansfield, who had been defending the terrorist Liam McCotter in the trial at Woolwich Crown Court, said that corrupt or disaffected officers had out wires on an alarmed outer fence before the prisoners reached it. He also said that four minutes of security camera film of the area was never supplied to the trial or to Sir John Woodcock's

inquiry into the escape. Prison officers cut through that fence at some earlier stage and there has been a major cover-up," Mr Mansfield said. "Obviously it concerns more than one person, but how far and how high it goes it is

impossible to delineate." Mr Mansfield said that at east one officer in Whitemoor's emergency control room gave evidence that he began filming as soon as the



Mansfield: "There has been major cover-up"

outer fence alarm sounded at 8.09pm on September 9, 1994, but no film was available to the inquiry before 8.13pm.

The prisoners would not have had time to make the 144 cuts to two fences in the few minutes of the escape, he said, "Where is the film? Our clients are not at all happy that the trial has come to an early end because they wanted this matter aired and resolved in a way that they never were able to do during the inquiry."

That had failed to interview all the officers involved, and had been used as an excuse to tighten security at all jails, he added. "Was this something where the security services set up an escape?"

But Mr Howard insisted that the escape had been thoroughly investigated and said: "If Mr Mansfield has any additional information he should certainly make it available to the police at once."

The men on trial at Woolwich were Paul Magee, 48, serving life for murder, Gilbert Macnamee, 36, serv-ing 25 years for the Hyde Park bombing: Peter Sherry, 31 and Liam O'Duibhir, 34, both in jail for life for conspiracy to

Cotter, 33, serving 17 years for terrorist offences, and Andrew Russell, who had convictions for armed robbery and hijacking. All were charged with breaking out of prison and intent to endanger life and with intent to break prison. None will face another trial.

Yesterday Mr Justice Kay beard the London Evening Standard and its publishers Associated Newspapers issue an unqualified, unconditional apology on behalf of the Editor Max Hastings and journalist Mark Honigsbaum for the article referring to Magee's IRA links and O'Dhuibhir and Sherry's terrorist convictions that led the trial to be halted. A report will now go to the Attorney-General who will decide whether to prosecute Mr Hastings for contempt. After the hearing, Mr Hastings said: "We are desperately sorry that a piece of caused the abandonment of

these proceedings."
The Home Secretary said later that he might now seek to give the prosecution in abandoned cases the same right of appeal enjoyed by the defence.

The decision in this case raises serious questions," he said. "I am giving serious consideration to the possibility of legislation to provide such a

The Crown Prosecution Service has not requested any such powers and it is unclear whether the measure could pass through Parliament before the general election. But the Lord Chancellor's Department backed the idea, saying: The Lord Chancellor was consulted by the Home Secretary this morning and is very supportive."

Inquiry findings, page 2 | said in Auckland yesterday:



Illness halts Lomu's career

By JOHN GOODBODY SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

THE career of Jonah Lomu, the world's most feared and famous rugby union player, may have been ended by a kidney disease from which specialists give the All Black only a 50-50 chance of com-

plete recovery.

Lomu, who scored four tries against England in the 1995 World Cup semi-final, has stopped playing for six months to undergo "heavy duty" drug treatment.

Lomu, the 6ft 5in, 18st wing,

This is a chance I have to take and it is better than doing nothing about it. I would rather miss out six months than miss out on a whole

lifetime of living. "I feel very positive about the treatment. I have got the best doctors on the case and I never lie down and let anything trample over me. This is just a hiccup."

Tongan-born Lomu, nick-named "The Big Unit", is suffering from nephrotic syndrome. John Mayhew, the All Blacks' doctor, said: "The characteristics of this disease are that he is suffering from low body protein in his blood.

"He is more susceptible to infection and he gets into trouble with swelling, especially after long flights. For the past 18 months, he has been dragging a cart around metaphorically. How he has managed to train and play. I am not sure." Dr Mayhew said that Lomu first began suffering from the syndrome in 1995, and his condition had 'deteriorated markedly" in the past 18 months.

Lonnu could not have played over the next six months anyway, because he is probably being prescribed corticosteroids and possibly diur-etics. Both are banned by the

International Rugby Board. Lomu's last international game was for the New Zealand Barbarians against England at Twickenham on November 30.

The end? Page 60

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Prince opposed to public cash for yacht

By VALERIE ELLIOTT WHITEHALL EDITOR

THE Prince of Wales has complained to friends that he was not consulted about the decision to replace the Royal Yacht Britannia or the timing

of the announcement. It is understood he would have preferred to have seen a new yacht funded privately and to have spared the taxpay er the £60 million bill.

Ministers have claimed privately that the Queen herself objected to the idea of a privately funded yacht, even though at one stage it was a favoured option of senior ministers and the Treasury.

An informed source told The Times that the Queen had voiced misgivings about "the on the new yacht which would have undermined the dignity of the monarchy. The Prime Minister was also said to be of the view that the yacht should be paid for by the taxpayer

Even though the Prince accepts the matter was essentially for the Government, he was concerned that the decision might backfire on the

A Buckingham Paluce spokesman insisted last night that the Queen had never expressed a view about the funding of a new yacht. "The Queen has always regarded this as a matter for the Government."

Campaigners for a publicly-funded ship believed the Queen disapproved of private funding. At a press conference at Westminster last week Lord Ashbourne, chairman of the all-party Royal Yacht group, suggested that the Queen did not favour a commercial

in salmonella scare

By Susan Bell in Paris and Dominic Kennedy

PARENTS swamped a foodpoisoning hotline yesterday fter a popular brand of baby milk powder was linked to an authorized of salmonella. The product, used by 25,000 Britsh babies, was withdrawn from shop shelves as parents were warned to throw away all supplies immediately.

The Times on the Internet http://www.the-times.co.uk



three and 12 months and

Ten out of the 12 babies throughout Britain who were struck with a rare strain of salmonella during the past week had been fed on an infant milk powder under the Milupa brand. All have recovered.

The product, known as Milumil for Hungrier Bottle-Fed Babies, has been traced to a factory in France. It has stopped making the suspect formula but is continuing to produce other lines. These nclude Forward, which is aimed at babies from six months to a year and is still being sold in Britain.

The factory's director general, Raymond Sipp, told The Times: "I think there is a certain psychosis in Britain at the moment because of the recent food poisoning problems there. Luckily, this does not appear to have been 2 serious outbreak. Only two of the babies were hospitalised.

"It is clear that the factory is not contaminated. Those infected were aged between Continued on page 2, col 7 | comes as more than 700

Baby milk powder | Ballroom judges take steps to stamp out dirty dancing

BY RUTH GLEDHILL

AGGRESSION on the ballroom dance floor has reached such levels that professional coaches and judges have drawn up an official "code of conduct" to stamp it out.

Complaints range from dangerous dancing to har-assment of judges and waltzing the wrong way round the

The code is a sure sign that traditional "floorcraft", in which gentlemen take care to ensure their partner is not put at risk by high-speed colli-sions, is rapidly becoming a thing of the past as the prospect of Olympic recognition draws closer. Injuries on the dance floor have reached record levels, with one top amateur only just about to return to the competition circuit after a another dancer damaged her cartilage with a high kick during the rumba.

Bad floorcraft, aggressive or dangerous dancing will be penalised by the chairman of adjudicators," warns the code, published in Dance News. It

couples from around the increasing numbers of pivots, world descend on Bournemouth for the Open UK quickstep, leaps through the mouth for the Open UK Championships. As the waltz, tango and quickstep become faster with



Ballroom manoeuvres: dirty work is afoot

air, the problem is that many dancers find they are unable to stop when a rival lands in their path. According to top professionals Stephen Hillier and David Sycamore, both former champions who drew up the code, floorcraft is essential if injury is to be avoided. Couples who breach it could find themselves handed the dance equivalent of a

yellow card. According to Harry Smith-Hampshire, a leading judge and world expert on the Viennese waltz, the problem is at its worst at the top echelons of waltz, quickstep, foxtror and tango dancing. Writing in Dance News, he says dangerous dancing is carried out with "cold-blooded deliberation".

The code will be translated into at least five foreign languages for many British competitors believe the drop in standards falls at the feet of foreign dancers.

Leading article, page 27

Sainsbury's muddle up Christmas

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

A MISCALCULATION over when people wanted to buy their Christmas groceries has proved costly for Sainsbury's supermarkets. Their share value fell by 13 per cent yesterday after the group is-sued a warning that this year's profits would be well below expectations. David Sainsbury, the chair-

man, said: "We got wrong the weeks in which Christmas trade would come. We had two very quiet weeks and then everyone came at once." That meant huge labour costs as tills and staff stood idle in the first two weeks when customers decided not to shop early. Mr Sainsbury said that the error would cut about £5

million from the year's profits, which are now expected to be about £640 to £650 million. That compares with £712 million last year when the company recorded its first decline in 22 years. The result of the announcement was that shares fell 51p to 341p.

Profit warning, page 31

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CUP FINAL

Will Leicester

champions?

be crowned club

NEW ZEALAND v ENGLAND

Test match reports from Alan Lee in Auckland

Report on prison escape blamed lax security

By Richard Ford HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE devastating official report into the escape of five IRA terrorists from Whitemoor jail highlighted lax security and the pampering of prisoners, who appeared to

have staff at their beck and call. Sir John Woodcock's inquiry described the escape in September 1994 as a "disaster waiting to happen" but made no suggestion that staff had colluded.

His report said that the five IRA men and an armed robber "cut a hole in the exercise yard fence, which was not alarmed, bent back the cut area allowing entry into the sterile area and access to the special secure unit security wall". The

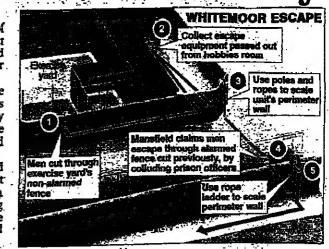
section out of the next fence (the second wire fence, which was alarmed) and forcefully bent back the resultant flap to gain access to the sterile area, which is inside the outer wall."

Sir John's assertion that the escapers cut both wire fences was unchallenged until Michael Mansfield, QC, who was acting for one of the IRA men, made his claim yesterday. At the time of the escape many found it impossible to believe that the prisoners could have escaped from the unit, specially designed to hold high-risk inmates, without help. But Sir John's

men then moved towards the outer perimeter of the jail. The report adds: Whilst the tail-enders were still negotiating the first wall, the other escapees cut a properly. Rub-down examinations had been suspended when a female visitor.

Much of the equipment used in the escape came from woodworking activities and other materials had been provided by well-intentioned staff members. The boltcutters used on both wire fences could have been smuggled to the men in bits.

The first wire fence was not alarmed and one prison official suggested last night that it could have been cut over a number of days without officers spotting the breach. One source suggested that the camera guarding the second fence had been turned the wrong way.



EMU will hit 1999 target, says Brussels

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

BRUSSELS yesterday contradicted John Major's prediction that the European Union would be unlikely to proceed safely with a single currency

Yves Thibault de Silguy, the European Commissioner responsible for the single currency, declared that there was "no doubt" that Europe would have its own currency on January 1, 1999, because of the "rock-solid will" of heads of government

Promising that there would be no "cooking of the books" to enable countries to meet the convergence criteria, M de Silguy nevertheless voiced optimism that a significant number of countries would be in the currency from the start. In an interview to be broadcast on GMTV's The Sunday Programme, he said that the single currency was essential for the smooth functioning of the single market.

M de Silguy was supported by Britain's senior European Commissioner, the former Tory Cabinet minister Sir Leon Brittan. He derided Tory backbench fears over joining the single currency as ridicu-lous, saying that while he supported the Government's wait-and-see policy he nevertheless believed that there were powerful reasons for going ahead with a single

ister yesterday dismissed as "completely off-beam" reports that up to 40 pro-European Tory MPs are plotting to split from the party if he loses the election and Michael Portillo succeeds him. He told reporters during a visit to his Huntingdon constituency: "It's a story that has emerged from time to time, usually without any names and has usually been denied by people

Brian Wilson, Labour's campaigns spokesman, said: "It has been less than 24 hours since the Cabinet discussed Europe. Already their agreed strategy is disintegrating and John Major is once more

in the past."

beleaguered and exposed.

When confronted with his party's deep divisions on Europe, the Prime Minister has an extraordinary capacity to put his head in the sand "He chooses to dismiss out of hand the threat of 40 pro-Europe Tories to break away from his party. The Major motto is always the same: when in trouble, pretend it's

not happening."

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, was reported by close colleagues to be "perfectly relaxed" about the Cabiner's toughened line. A close friend said: "Ken is making a virtue of necessity. He has thought it increasingly unlikely that the currency will be able to go ahead . . . He is happy."



Dennis Segal, Milupa managing director, said there was no proof its infant formula was to blame

EACH year 25.000 British babies are fed on a brand of

have been given Milumil

immediate anxiety, and the

doctor's first duty is to reas-sure a worried mother that the

odds of 25,000-10 make it

unlikely that her apparently

fit baby will have suffered.

Furthermore, the mother should be told that withdraw-

al of the milk is a precaution-

ary measure. As yet, no actual

proven link between the cases

and the milk has been made. The mother will also be

happier when she knows that

the organism causing this infection, Salmonella

anatum, usually causes mild

symptoms, so mild that only

two cases have needed admis-

sion to hospital. The doctor's

second duty is to recommend

any other milk powder which

is just as efficient. The babies

are unlikely to notice the

difference and even if they do,

since October.

Milk

Continued from page 1 babies of that age are eating a range of foods. We conduct a strict microbiological analysis of the plant every day and not one case of salmonella has

been detected."
Scientists are carrying out tests to find the source of the infection, which could be in the raw materials, the factory, its workers or equipment. Brit-ish mothers are being advised to discard remains of the suspect powdered milk, along with the scoops and ladles that may harbour infection.

Health experts have warned parents against switching to cow's milk. Instead, they should buy an equivalent manufactured product.

Mothers should watch babies fed on the withdrawn product for symptoms, which include diarrhoea, vomiting and fever. The incubation period is three to seven days.

The alert was sounded by

experts at the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre in Colindale, north London. Routine tests on samples this week caused alarm when they established that 12 babies — in Scotland, Yorkshire, the Midlands and South-East - had become infected with the un-usual Salmonella anatum.

Of the 29,000 salmonella cases in Britain each year, only 50 involve this strain, and almost all those are adults. The factory which makes the product is in Colmar, near Strasbourg, and is still working. Although it has stopped

producing the formula for hungrier infants, it continues to make Forward, designed for babies being weaned. Dennis Segat, managing director of Milupa, emphasised there was no proof so. far that its infant formula was to blame for the outpools, only a statistical link. "It is circum-stantial evidence," he said. "It

factory is at fault." The Milupa brand is owned by the Dutch company Nutricia. It has set up 45 help

Tunnelling protesters dig in for the night Five protesters were last night locked behind a steel door in a tunnel dug in the path of a £65 million road improvement scheme. It was their second night spent defying bailiffs who had earlier removed some of their colleagues from "rwigloos" built in the branches of trees at Fairmile Camp on the A30 near Exeter. Trevor Coleman, Under Sheriff for Devon, said that the tunnel would be cleared today, after making sure that the four men and one woman occupying the nunnel were Russian talks Michael Howard is to visit Moscow next week for talks about the threat to Britain from Russian gangs involved in organised crime and drug trafficking. The Home Secretary will have discussions with Anatoli Kulikov, the Minister of Internal Affairs, during his two days in Russia. They are also expected to discuss the

Drugs charges Seven Britons, alleged to have

terrorism threat.

been part of one of Europe's biggest drugs rings, were remanded in custody by a Dutch court until April. The seven men and a Colombian are charged with helping to organise a £100 million racket to market heroin, cocaine, Ecstasy and hashish in the UK and across the Continent. Their

Fire stops reactor

One of the reactors at Hunterston nuclear power station in Ayrshire was closed esterday after fire broke out in the turbine hall. Strathclyde Fire Brigade were called to the plant, but by the time they arrived the fire was already out A spokesman for Scottish Nuclear said that a bearing had overheated, but there was no danger to the public.

Welsh protest

Welsh activists have launched their election campaign by occupying the offices of William Hague, the Welsh Secretary. Members of Cymdeithas yr laith Gymraeg, the Welsh Language Society, locked themselves into a room in Northallerton, North Yorkshire, in protest at Mr Hague's appointment.

Hostage threat

Security sources blamed the Ulster Defence Association for aking a mother and her three year-old daughter hostage in a loyalist area of Belfast. Masked men burst into a house, tied up the woman up and telephoned her husband, demanding money by threat-ening to set fire to his wife and daughter. He complied. 🦿

Midweek £10m

The National Lottery operator Camelot has guaranteed a jackpot of £10 million for the first two midweek draws. which begin on February 5. Camelot said: "As this is a key. landmark for the National Lottery, a £10 million jackpot will, we hope, help to ensure that the midweek draw gets off

milk powder manufactured, according to EU regulations, LEDICAL BRIEFING by the firm Milupa. The milk Milumil for Hungrier Bottlefed Babies is made from modified cow's milk with Dr Thomas Stuttaford added vitamins and minerals. It is possible that there have been 10 cases of food poisoning in bottle-fed babies who recommended where possible

their progress should not be Any scare of this sort causes

Mothers can be reassured

despite scare over babies

is one known to every young mother. The slogan has unfor-tunately caused a sense of inferiority in mothers who for some perfectly sound medical to breastfeed. There are

reasons why breastfeeding is recommended and, if it works well, there is no better method. If there are difficulties, it may well be that the baby will do just as well, or even better, on the bottle.

humans. Cow's milk contains more protein, and may well contain more fat. All milk-fed babies need additional vitamin D. routinely added to bottle-milk formulas. Human milk has less iron, but what it has is better absorbed.

is that the number of infections is very much less than it is in the bottle-fed. This recent alarm is a good indication of this. The breast-fed baby also receives a hefty dose of anti-bodies in its mother's milk.

Breastfeeding provides the milk which has evolved for

One of the most important

Rigorously cleaning and sterilising a bottle provides some safeguard against the risk of gastrointestinal infections, but not of course if it is the milk powder which has

en the vector for the Ninety per cent of women are anatomically and physiclogically able to breastfeed. Failure of breastfeeding usually occurs because of painful nipples or breasts, but in other cases it stems from a dislike of the idea, either scause the mother fears it will spoil the shape of her

psychological aversion to the

to a flying start."

School machete attack leaves boy in hospital

BY LIN JENKINS AND RICHARD DUCE

A BOY was in hospital last night with serious head injuries after he was attacked outside his school by a gang of

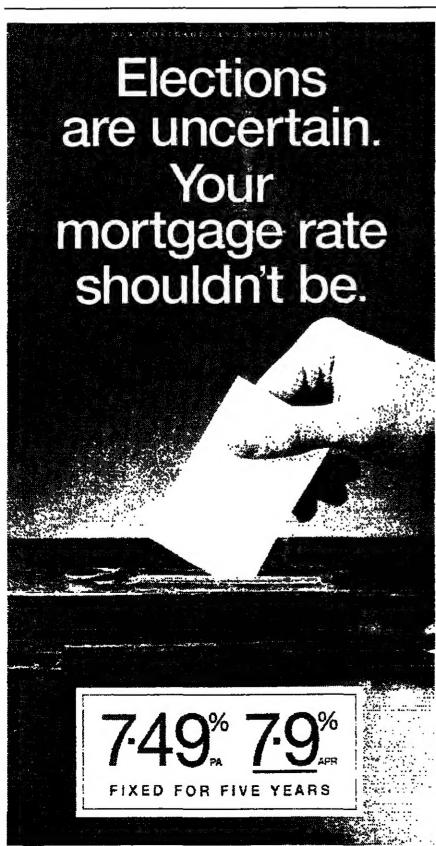
youths wielding a machete. The 14-year-old was set apon by five other boys as he Kidbrooke Secondary School in southeast London just before 4pm. He was peaten about the head by the gang outside the school gates

before they ran off.

named, was flown by air ambulance to the Royal London Hospital in Whitechapel, east London, where he was said to be in a serious but stable condition.

It is thought that the gang, who are also believed to be aged around 14, do not come from the same school. Police appealed for anyone who saw four Oriental boys and a white boy in the area before the attack to contact them.





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80-year-old widow's detective work helps track missing antiques to London auctioneer

French viscountess wins battle for stolen candelabra

By Kathryn Knight and Emma Wilkins

A FRENCH viscountess yesterday won her long and arduous battle to reclaim a pair of rare candelabra which were stolen from her home and then offered for sale at Sotheby's a decade later. Mrs Justice Arden ruled in

the High Court that the marble and gilt-bronze nine-branched candlebra, sent to auction by the antiques dealer Adrian Alan and worth £60,000, were the ones stolen from the chateau of Mme Nicole de Préval during a burglary in 1986.

Mr Alan, a Mayfair dealer, had told the court that he bought them from a New York gallery two years before the burglary and claimed that they were inferior copies of the originals, made after the death of the 19th-century sculptor Antoine-Louis Barye. But yesterday Mrs Justice

Arden said it was clear that the candelbra, depicting the Three Graces, should be returned to their French home. where they had been kept for 150 years. The evidence of Mine de Préval and her daughter in identifying the disputed candelabra and proving their provenance was in my judgment highly per-suasive," she said.

The judge added that the deciding factor must be that Mme de Préval had found on the candelabra the initials of her great-great-grandfather, Emile Martin.

The court had been told that the battle to win back the family honour for Mme de Préval, an 80-year-old widow whose late husband, the Vicomte de Préval, fought with Bomber Command during the Second World War. She at-





tended court every day despite speaking no English. In pre-cise French, which was translated in court, she told the judge that Barye, a favourite of the court of Louis Philippe,

She recalled how that greatgreat-grandfather, a patron of the arts, had once saved Barye from bankruptcy and the sculptor created the 3ft-high candelabra out of gratitude

and friendship. The antiques bore an enamel cartouche engraved with the initials E.M. as well as Vicomte de Préval's Légion d'honneur insignia. The two candelabra formed

part of a triptych, with a marble centrepiece depicting a mythological scene, the abduetion of Angelica, a beautiful heroine, by a warrior astride a hippogriff (a fabulous creature like a griffin but with the body and hindquarters of a horse).

The candlesticks were among 40 items stolen from the drawing room of Mme de Preval's second home near Sagonne, south of Paris.

For eight years she heard nothing until, in 1994, she received a telephone call from her local police, who told her that the candelabra were being offered for sale by Sotheby's in London.

Mme de Préval, who was sent a catalogue, examined the glossy photograph of the can-delabra with a magnifying glass. Recognising them immediately as her own, she was even able to see the initials on each candlestick.

French police alerted Interpol and officers from Scotland Yard contacted Sotheby's. The auction was called off with just days to spare.

But the auction house returned the candelabra to Mr Alan, who refused to hand them over. She decided to sue. They are of great sentimental

Mr Alan, who has been dealing in antiques for 32 years and specialises in 19thcentury decorative items, said he had bought them from the Cheriff Gallery in New York. However, Mrs Justice Arden



said Mr Alan's evidence contained a number of weaknesses, as there were no witnesses and a lack of documentation to corroborate his version of vents. She found that he bought them after the date of the theft, for between £5,000 and £6,000.

Costs were awarded against Mr Alan, who was not present in court. His solicitor, Michael Landon, said he was disap-

pointed with the judgment. However, it has been and remains his position that he bought the candelabra innocently and in good faith from a long established and reputable dealer in New York."

Mme de Préval was told that the candelabra would be returned when her French adviser, Neville Maryan Green, telephoned her at her Paris apartment. "It was a very emotional conversation," Mr Maryan Green said.

"She was immensely relieved and proud. She told m∈ 'Now I will be able to sleep again.' She has invested so much money and time and her heart into these proceedings and she feels her family history has not been betrayed." During the proceedings, Mme de Préval told The

Times: "I adored them. I can

my family's history," said Mme de Préval, who has six children. "I brought this action because recovering the candelabra is a duty to my family, to my antecedents and my descendants."

as a girl in my father's house.

They are a part of my past and

She now eagerly wants to reunite them with

Man, 82 vows to end life of crime

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

AN S2-YEAR-OLD "prolific" burglar may avoid another prison sentence after a judge ordered him to have a medical to see whether he was fit enough to go to jail. After hearing of his long criminal career, Judge Kevin Cutler told Join Dean that he had "been in court more times than I have" but said he ought to be examined to see if he could cope with prison.

For his latest offence, Dean had pleaded guilty at Swindon Crown Court to breaking into the home of an elderly woman and stealing her pension and Post Office book, Dean, who was last jailed for burglary four years ago, hobbled into court and was helped into the

dock by an usher. Tom Hills, for the defence, said Dean, from Knowle. Bristol, was a "prolific" burgtar. His health had rapidly deseriorated since he committed the offence in July last year. He had recently damaged his hip and was having difficulty breathing. Judge Cutler agreed to order a medical examination and told Dean: This is to see whether you are fit enough for a term of

imprisonment or not." The case, which took place : pending the medical check-up. At his home yesterday, Dean, who claims to have more than 50 convictions for burglary and to have served time in Parkhurst, Wandsworth, and Leyhill prisons, said he had spent half his life in jail and wanted to change. He said he had been in prison so often that he could hardly remember the first time but thought it was in the late 1930s.

"I'm a terrible burglar. always got caught because I was drunk all the time." he said. "I've decided it's just not worth it. This is the last time I will ever be in trouble. I can't walk as far as the bottom of the road so how am I going to rob anyone?"

Barclay brothers | Slimming tycoon win libel appeal

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

THE Barclay brothers won France to the Channel Islands their battle to sue a British Counsel for the brothers journalist for defamation in a denied at the time that his French court yesterday, but lost their claim for damages

against the BBC. John Sweeney, an Observer journalist, was ordered to pay FF20,000 (about £2,200) in by the court of appeal in Rennes for remarks made during an interview he gave about the brothers on October 4, 1995, to BBC Radio

The Barciays alleged that they had been falsely accused of corruption during the interview in connection with the Crown Agents' scandal in the

However, the appeal court rejected the brothers demands for damages against
John Birt, Director-General of
the BBC. They had originally
sought FF400,000 (about
£44,000) in damages from the
BBC and Mr Sweeney.

The Barclays had already lost an earlier £108,000 criminal libel action against Mr Birt. They appealed after a court in Saint-Malo threw out their demand for damages last July when the judge found the

They based their action on the fact that the interview could be heard in northern France and notably around Saint-Malo, the nearest part of

1 Arms

privacy laws. France is particularly attractive for litigants. Although damages are often lower than those awarded in British courts, the legal system is quick, offers the possibility of imposing a criminal sanction and of winning a prominent

clients' motive had been to

capitalise on France's strict

The Barday brothers, who are ranked among the top 20 richest people in Britain, own the Ritz and have extensive ownership of The European and The Scotsman newspapers. The identical twins are known for their extreme secre cy and for the construction of their fortress-like neo-Gothic mansion on the Channel island of Brecchou and for a legal battle they have launched against the feudal

authorities on the island of Mr Sweeney has written extensively about the Barclays, who are known to have been offended by his interest in their business affairs and particularly by an incident in which the journalist paid an uninvited visit to their island retreat in search of

cleared of theft

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE founder of the Weight Watchers slimming empire walked free from court yesterday after Judge Butler, QC, said the prosecution of said the prosecution of Bernice Weston had been "doomed to failure from the

The 58-year-old business-woman had been charged with stealing beauty products worth £150 from a health club at the Dolphin Square com-plex in central London, where the Princess Royal has a home. She had also been home. She had also been accused of an alternative charge of handling them.

The offences, to which she pleaded not guilty at an earlier hearing, were alleged to have been committed in late 1995. But at Southwark



Crown Court, Claudius Algar for the prosecution, said he had no option but to drop the main witness, Helen Bailey, a therapist, was honeymooning and backpacking around New Zealand. He added: "It was a strong case against this defendant if we had had that

But Mr Algar's observation prompted Judge Butler to retort "I shall have something to say about that later." Timothy Kendall, for the defence, condemned Mrs Weston's arrest and prosecution as "misconceived from the outset". His client had "consistently and wholly de-nied" the allegations.

He went on: "It is a matter of concern to those who defend her that Detective Constable Adam Hayes, the officer in this case, took a blinkered view." His conduct "included a wholly unlawful arrest for alleged breach of bail, resulting in her staying in custody overnight".

The judge, who ordered not guilty vertices to be recorded, said: "The case against this defendant was so filmsy as to be virtually non-existen Outside court, Mrs Weston who has a flat in Dolphin Square, fought back tears as she described her ordeal as

worse than a nightmare.

century. In 2012, Ruth's eldes

child, Pip, will be 18. Will she now have a little brother or

sister to help carry on the expansion at Brookfield

Miss Whithurn said that

she had wanted to mark the programme's 12,000th episode

on an upbeat note, after a

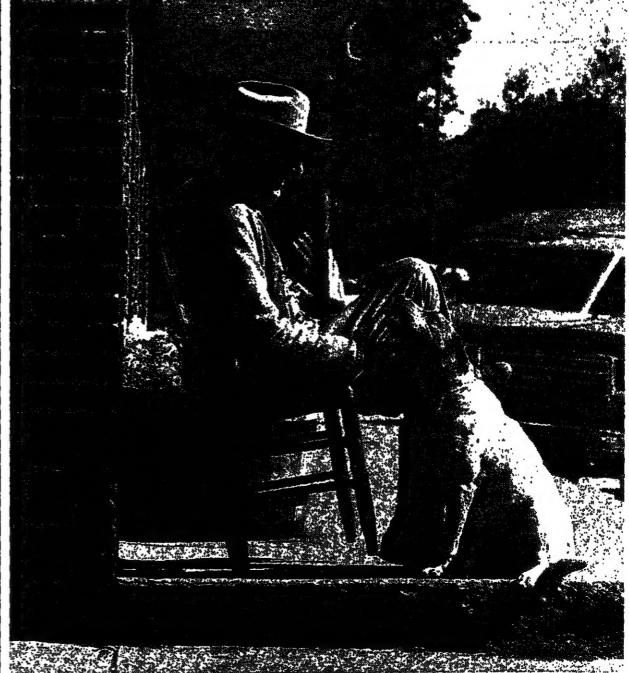
string of harrowing plot devel-

opments. The news will come

as a relief to the programme's

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4½ million fans.



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Baby boom ensures Archers' future

☐ 1,000th. Nov 22, 1954: John Tregorran proposes to Carol. ☐ 2,000th. Sept 26, 1958: Tom Forrest marries Pru.

☐ 3,000th. July 27, 1962: Rickard Todd opens fete.
☐ 4,000th. May 27, 1966: Uncharacteristically quiet.
☐ 5,000th. March 27, 1970: Walter proposes to Mrs P.
☐ 6,000th. Jan 25, 1974: Tony Archer proposes to Mary

☐ 3,000th. Sept 25, 1981: Eddie Grundy proposes to Clarrie.
☐ 4,000th. July 26, 1985: Mopping up after hig storm.
☐ 10,000th. May 26, 1989: Terry Wogan plays golf.
☐ 11,000th. March 26, 1993: Anneka Kice helps to refurbish

Weston. The engagement was later broken.

17,000th. Nov 25, 1977: Kate Aldridge's christening.

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN

PRODUCERS of Radio 4's The Archers, which last night celebrated its 12,000th episode, have pledged to keep the rural scap opera running "to the year 2020 and beyond through the creation of a vhole new generation of the Archers clan

The newest addition was announced last night when Ruth Archer — daughter-inlaw of the patriarch Phil revealed to her husband. David, that she was pregnant with their second child.

Insiders at the BBC's Pebble Mill studies in Birmingham, where the farming soap opera is recorded, suggested last night that David's sister hula, who was widowed three years ago, may be the next character to have a child. Shula, who has a young son. Daniel, may find love this

The next possible parent comment on the speculation.

The Prince was at a con

could be John Archer, cousin of David and Shula, who is not married but has a girlfriend. In a surprise twist, the programme's makers are considering leaving Elizabeth Archer, David and Shula's sister, childless, even though she is married and settled. Vanessa Whithum, the pro-

the village hall.

and beyond. One of my reibilities is to make sure gramme's editor, would not that the new generation of

Unlike television scaps, the Archers has traditionally kept its storylines secret until they are broadcast. Sensational scripts are regularly shredded. Ms Whitburn said: We want to ensure that the programme is still here in 2020

lar tenant farmers, the Grundys, have been lighting eviction by their money-grab bing and heartless landlord, Simon Pemberton. Shula has lost her job as Mr Pemberton's land agent and David faces the prospect of having to testify against the Grundys.

The Archer family has been put in a compromising position, Ms Whitburn said. With Ruth's pregnancy we want to show that, even in the bad times, there can be good times round the corner."

Blair puts return to work at top of welfare reforms

LABOUR PROPOSALS

■ Change the Department of Social Security and the

Employment Service so people are encouraged into work

Seek to expand opportunities for people to study, for
example by relaxing the "16-hour" rule for lone parents

under the age of 25 and without qualifications. Under this

rule, people lose benefits if they study for more than 16

■ Target lone parents returning to work for "individual

learning accounts", funded by government, which would

Set targets for Training and Enterprise Councils, the government bodies which sponsor training, to increase the number of jobless lone parents being trained and

■ Develop a "flexible and personalised" benefits service so that benefits could be joined together at local level to

form a package customised to the needs of the individual

Examine ways to set up network of after-school and homework clubs, perhaps paid for through a New Millennium Commission, funded by the lottery

enable people to choose and purchase training

YOUNG people would have to take up job training and education offers or face cuts in benefit under welfare reforms set out by Tony Blair yesterday. Single mothers would be encouraged to work.

Suggesting that he intends Labour's changes to be far more radical than so far heralded, Mr Blair spoke of the party's duty, as the creator of the welfare state, to reform and even "refound" it from first principles.

Announcing a six-point plan to reduce the £10 billion a year cost of benefits for lone parents. Mr Blair hinted, however, that Labour might not go ahead with the removal of oneparent premium on benefits and lone parent benefit announced in the last Budget. He said in a BBC interview that Labour would accept the global social security budget that it would inherit if elected, but that the proposals were wrong. He suggested that his proposals for getting single parents into work would en-

£60 a week rebate on this cost for six months: a job with a non-profit voluntary sector employer; full-time study; or a able Labour to avoid the cuts. iob on the task force. Speaking in Amsterdam. Labour has pledged to get

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250,000 young people off bene-Mr Blair said that where there fit and into work, training, education or its environmenwas a suitable offer, people would be expected to take tal task force. They will be them up. "That is fair: rights offered the option a job with and responsibilities go together." It is understood that young people would face a 40 per cent cut in their benefit if they did not take an offer.

Mr Blair, addressing a conference on social policy, said that, under Labour, every unemployed lone mother with children of school age would be invited to attend their Jobcentre for a careers interview. They would be informed about local childcare, and the party plans to promote a network of after-school clubs.

*Lone parents are trapped on benefits because they are left there with no active support from the welfare state." Mr Blair said.

He made clear that there was no question of forcing single mothers into work by measures such as cutting their benefits. The point was to offer them choice, he said.

A greater proportion of lone mothers — 71 per cent — are dependent on state benefits in Britain than in Belgium, Denmark, France. Sweden, The Just 10 per cent are dependent on such benefits in Germany. In France, 82 per cent of lone mothers work: 41 per cent do here. Pressure groups for sin-gle parents maintain that the most significant factor is the comparative lack of affordable childcare in out-of-school hours in this country.

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subjected to legal restraints, a minister said yesterday. The warning came on the same day that three brands were found to have breached mar-

keting guidelines.
Timothy Kirkhope, a Home
Office minister, said in the
House of Commons that, if the popularity of the drinks coninued to grow with teenagers he hoped that the Government would take action against

speaking in a personal capacity during a indesse on is backbench fall to curb underage drinking in public, said the use of alcohol, in fruit marketed. The Government was monitoring the voluntary code set up by the Portman Group, which was established by the drinks industry to

THE sale of alcopods may be

Mr Kirkhope, who was

counter alcohol misuse. The Portman Group upheld complaints against TNT Liquid Dynamite, Purple Passion and Dog's Bollocks. George Howarth a Labour spokes man, attacked the "cynical way" some alcopop manufac-

branded cowards on green policies CORRESPONDENT

Labour

THE head of a leading environmental group claims that Labour voters are in danger of electing a party of "political lightweights and cowards when it comes to saving the

Charles Secrett executive director of Friends of the Earth, echoes the concerns of many senior colleagues when he says new Labour "has even less commitment to the environment than the Tories". Environmentalists fear the Labour team of Michael Meacher, Frank Dobson and pared with John Gummer, the current Environment Secretary, are either ignorant of complex issues or too far outside the Blair inner circle to he taken seriously.

Mr Secrett, in the left-ofcentre magazine Red Pepper, says Labour spin-doctors have failed to grasp the importance to the electorate of conserving wildlife and cleaning up air and water. "Labour risks alienating many uncommitted voters who care deeply about the environment."

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me

He says the Conservative Government has, either by default or through Mr Gum mer, provided a forwardthinking, green agenda for Britain that the Labour Party is in danger of squandering Mr Secreti singles out Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, for being not only behind the Tories on environmenta tax reforms but of drafting policies that are harmful to the planet. Mr Brown has said he wants to cut VAT on fuel from

8 per cent to 5 per cent, believing it is a vote winner. "This is the worst possible signal you can send to people about saving energy and cut-ting emissions of the gases that cause global warming. It is being dressed up as concern for the poor. The only people that benefit from that kind of tax reduction are the middle

classes," Mr Secrett says. He says the Tories have environmental issues and an increasingly respected inter-national figure on subjects like climate change and the loss of

the world's species." The Conservatives had also pledged to raise fuel prices by 5 per cent in real terms for the forsecable future and to initate massive cutbacks in the roads programme. Both of those are bringing real envirunmental benefits.

He concludes: A party hierarchy that lacks insight and courage to take the lead on these issues does not deserve turers marketed their products. I to win a general election."







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5ft 5in MP stands up for the vertically challenged

By Andrew Pierce, political correspondent

THE shortest male Tory MP in the House of Commons launched a passionate defence of the rights of the vertically challenged yesterday. Michael Stern, 5ft 5in in his

coward

stockinged feet, warned fellow MPs against the dangers of discriminating against under-sized adults. He was speaking in a Commons debate about new powers for the police to combat underage drinking in the streets. Mr Stern, 54, speaks from bitter experience. He still bears the scars of humiliation from being re-fused alcohol by publicans-who thought he was still underage as he approached his thirtieth birthday.

For someone like me, who is vertically challenged, I want to ensure that any new powers we give to the police are not abused," he said. "We have to ensure they are not heavyhanded in the way they treat short people. When I was young I was always mistaken as being rather younger than I was because of my lack of inches. That continued into

west was on his feet during the second reading of the Confis-cation of Alcohol (Young Persons) Bill. The Bill gives the police the right to confiscate alcohol from underage drinkers in public places.

Mr Stern insisted that safe-

guards should be written into the legislation, which he sup-ported, and which has all-party backing. "My lack of inches meant that I was regularly challenged in my adult life when I bought alcohol. We must ensure that in our desire to do the right thing, by taking away alcohol from underage drinkers, we do not take away the self-respect of small people at the same time "

Mr Stern is from a small family. His wife, Allian, measures 5ft and their daughter, Katherine, whose nickname is Tich, a little more. All three Sterns have long believed the dictum that small is beautiful. One of their favourite politicians is Lyndon John-son who once said: "Anything above 5ft Sin is a waste of effort."

y adult life."
The MP, who is on the Thatcherite wing of the party



Stern: was refused a drink in his late 20s

and is a former vice-chairman, has yet to scale the heights of ministerial office in his 13 years in the Commons. He admitted he had even suffered discrimination at the hands of the Tory party. In the 1970s, when he was seeking selection as a candidate, it was made clear by the Tory grandees in charge of the selection process that he would not make the grade. "There was a long period when the Conservative Party would not select small women," he said.

Even the sly deployment of platform shoes, which were the fashion rage at the time. failed to impress the selection panels. "I was told that I was literally not up to the job because I was not the regulation oft 4in which Tory MPs were expected to be."

Mr Stern, whose colleagues joke he was denied ministerial office because he could not see over the top of the Commons dispatch box, even has difficulties on cycling holidays abroad with his wife. "I have to ask for a ladies' mountain bike because otherwise my feet don't touch the ground,"

He believes he is in good company. He pointed out that generals such as Napoleon, Julius Caesar and Alexander the Great were small in height but big in spirit. "I, too, can stand up for myself," he said. "I decided to speak up for for those who cannot."

Katherine Stern derived some amusement from her father's intervention. "Did he really say he's 5ft 5in?" she said. "He's not you know. He's



The new Escort, planned for launch in 1998, will be built abroad although the interiors may come from Britain

Ford takes curves in new Escort

By Kevin Eason, motoring editor

THE first Ford Escort to be built outside Britain will be a curvy, futuristic hatchback, according to pictures taken in the company's design studio.

Workers at the Halewood plant on
Merseyside will not make the car
because Ford decided that the factory was not efficient enough. Unions are balloting the company's 30,000 workers in Britain on whether to call a strike.

Pictures of the new Escort, planned

tested in Germany, are published today in the motoring magazine Auto Express. Even though the car will be built abroad. British designers have been responsible for much of its development. The interiors are expected to come from Ford's Dunton design complex in Essex while engines and transmissions could also be produced in Britain. Designers have abandoned the ear's "square" styling for a

dramatically rounded shape and tear-

describe it as the biggest design advance in Ford's small-car range since the 1980 launch of the MkIII Escort which became Britain's best-selling car for almost a decade,

Halewood will lose 1,300 jobs, a third of the workforce, when Escort produc-tion ends there. However, Ford emphasises that Halewood could get new investment building a peoplecarrier version of the new Escort, a seven-seater hatchback.

Peer ticked off for punching his former wife

A SCOTTISH peer convicted of assaulting his former wife walked free from court and escaped a possible fine yesterday because of his "hitherto

unblemished character". Lord Rowallan, 49, who has been married three times, has fought a bitter custody battle, sold off the family estate and last year was sued for nonpayment of a catering bill for his wedding buffet, was "ad-monished" by Sheriff Peter Gillam at Ayr Sheriff Court.

The peer, who was charged as John Corbett, was found guilty of punching Sandrew Corbett, 35, his second wife, so that she fell unconscious. The jumping event at Muirmill Equestrian Club in November

Rowallan, who lives in a farmhouse near Fenwick, East Ayrshire, was alleged to have thrown a heavy punch to the back of Mrs Corbett's neck on his way to help Sophie. Dinning, his teenage step-daughter, who had fallen and was trapped under her horse.

Yesterday, the sheriff said: 'I have regard to your hitherto unblemished character and the circumstances in which. the assault took place in which you were understandably distraught. Under the circumstances you are admonished."

Both parties refused to speak as they left court yesterday. The maximum sentence for assault convictions for first offenders is three months in prison or a £5,000 fine

Mrs Corbett, who is 5ft 3in. was felled by the blow from the oft 2in fourth baron who in the 1970s twice unsuccess-



Rowallan: his character "hitherto unblemished"

fully stood for Parliament as a Conservative.

She told the court on the first day of the trial, which took place last November before being adjourned until yesterday, that her former husband was 'a bully who hit her because "there wasn't a man or anyone bigger around".

At the time of the assault, the couple had not spoken for a year because of a custody dispute over their children. which Rowallan lost. Mrs Corbett was a stable girl on Rowallan's estate before be-

Their marriage ended four years ago when she left him for the former international showjumper John Brown, with whom she now lives in

Symington, South Ayrshire. She said that she had been standing with friends when she saw her furmer husband approaching. "The next thing I knew, I was being picked up by a friend. I had received a blow to the base of my skull." She suffered whiplash injuries and was later treated in hospital at Kilmarnock.

Rowallan, who has no previous convictions, denied assault and punching her to cause injury. He claimed that Mrs Corbett had laughed contemptuously as he rushed to help Sophie, 15.

"I treated it with the contempt it deserved. At no time did I clench my fist and wallop anyhody. It was more of a hand flick," he said.

Describing how there was "no love lost" between Mrs Corbett and himself, he claimed the assault allegation was a plot to get revenge on him. His stepdaughter needed eight operations after the accident, according to her mother. Rowalian's third wife, Claire.

Rowallan inherited the title after his father's death in June 1993. He sold the family estate and Rowallan Castle, near Kilmaurs, in 1989 to a proper-ty developer in what he described as "a sad but inevitable" move.

Last year Rowallan settled out of court after being sued for £3,712 plus interest by the owners of the Fenwick Hotel who claimed that he had failed to pay the balance of a food and drink bill for his third wedding reception at his home

Prince misses a beat on a song by the King

BY AUDREY MAGEE

impressed. The tune being performed for him on a royal visit was called The Wonder of You. There was even a line with the words. "You touch my hand and I'm a king."

So it may have seemed only polite for the Prince to ask one of the young performers in North Tyneside if he had written the song himself. Gavin Lovell, 24, then had the task of pointing out that it was an old hit by Elvis

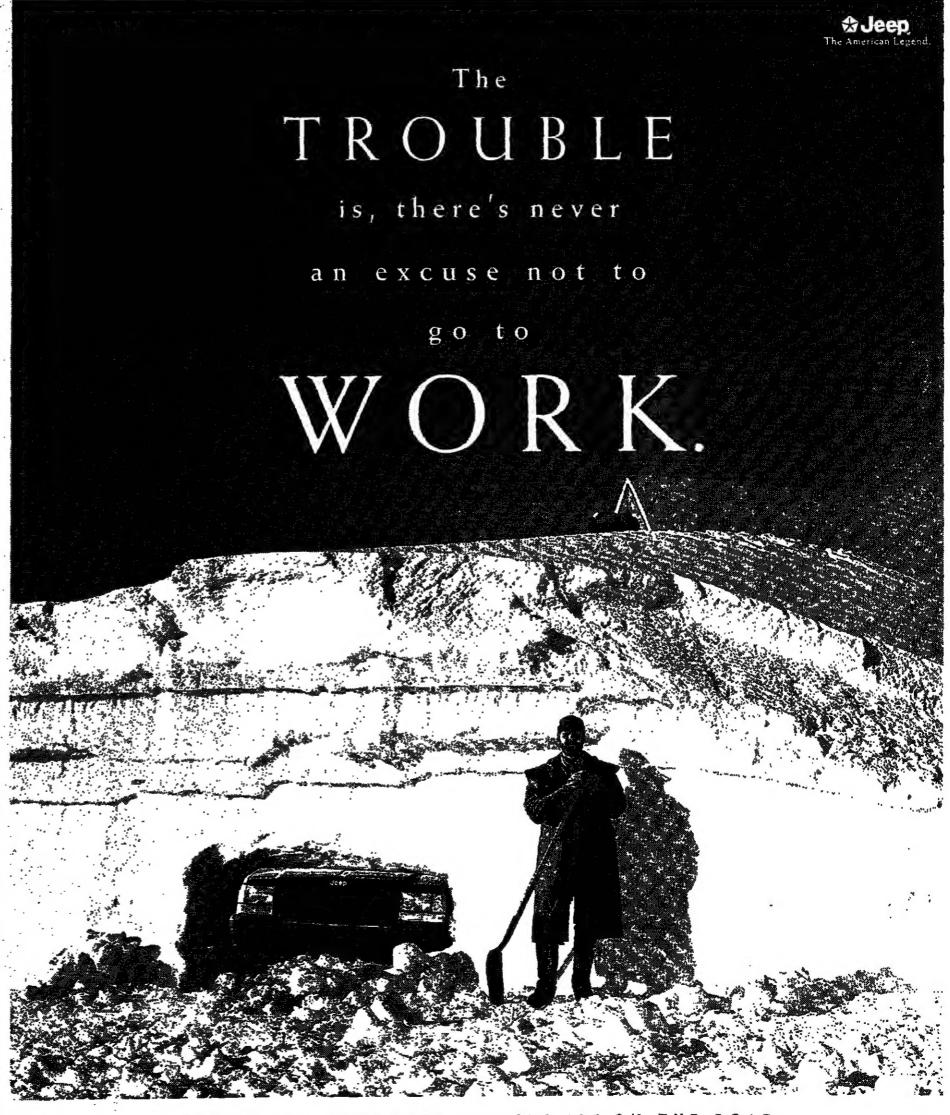
The Prince was at a com-

IT SEEMED like a good ell and another guitarist, song with catchy lyrics, and Bradley Tighe, burst into the Prince of Wales was their impromptu performance. The Prince stepped forward to thank them and to ask his question.

As diplomatically as pos-

sible, Mr Lovell pointed out the song's fame. It was at the top of the charts for six weeks in 1970. The Prince was 22 that year. Mr Lovell was not

yet born. The Prince spent two hours at the community centre in Longbenton, in the heart of West Farm housing estate. He met business leaders to discuss projects to help munity centre when Mr Lov- young people seeking work.



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Appearance is a matter of pride for the comeback man whose castle is his home

bright dawn, then Mr Clark swears in

A PERFECT January morning, and a political triumph, shone on the Conservative's new prospective parliamentary candidate for Kensington and Chelsea yesterday as he strode out on a brisk two-hour walk around his vast. rolling estate at Saltwood Castle,

Sun warmed the ancient stone of his Norman keep. Snowdrops thrust through the earth and cattle lowed in the distance. It was good to be alive and to be Alan Clark. At one o'clock the idyll was shattered; Mr Clark encountered the press. He hoved into view bearing

a large knobbly stick and wearing a filthy old leather jerkin, blue-spotted necker chief, baggy trousers and a pair of green Wellingtons caked in Kentish mud, the very sort of gear his prospec tive urban constituents like to slip into at weekends. A large knot of reporters and camera men lay in wait at his gatehouse, momentarily unsure whether the approaching

rustic figure was their quarry. They had waited for two hours. Attempts to interview his wife Jane by telephone were met with a full answer ing machine, and a recorded request to send a fax. Further attempts to interview her over the castle entryphone had elicited the polite but firm response that she was making no comment at all, was quite hysterical at the phone going all the time and was going out to prune the roses.

Two rottweilers growling behind the wooden gate deterred any further journalistic pursuit, but Mrs Clark promsed that her husband would arrive soon and would happily talk. In the event the arrangements collapsed. The moment Mr Clark came within range, the photographers began firing. The Worzel Gummidge look had a better chance of hitting the front pages than did a Tory toff in a

"Don't do that," Mr Clark shouted. "I'll stick my tongue out at you." They continued firing. "I'll go upstairs and put my uniform on, then you can take some proper pictures." The shutters kept clicking and Mr Clark's patience snapped.

'Now you're breaking the



An angry Alan Clark at his gate yesterday. "I will stick my tongue out at you," he said. "I'll go upstairs and put my uniform on, then you can take some proper pictures"

through his castle gate and shutting it firmly behind him. The rottweilers were suddenly silent, leading to brief speculation that they had eaten

A BBC television crew had been admitted to the grounds and set up a satellite dish in a muddy farm lane near by, Mr Clark was not going to pass up the chance of a live appearance on the one o'clock news. Through the portcultislike gate he was seen to reappear, having changed swiftly into tweed jacker, clean casual trousers and suede shoes to face the camera on his lawn.

Suddenly, the assembled peasantry outside the gate enjoyed a stroke of luck. A florist drew up with a bouquet, announced herself on entryphone and Mrs nounced sharply, striding Clark had no choice but to

opened gate. Lenses were poked through the portcullis holes, questions were shouted. Mrs Clark may have had the distinct impression that she was in a 200, except that were on the

ased for him, but it had been quite nail-biting sitting downstairs during the selection meeting. Yes, she loved campaigning and looked forward to going back on the trail. No, her life would not be disrupted any more than it usually was. Dressed all in brown for pruning, Mrs Clark said that they had not arrived home from the meeting until 2.30am but her husband loved long walks on days like this to

Mrs Clark had suddenly

even posed a little, turning this way and that for the lenses. The Times gallantly passed through two bottles of milk which she had not dared to collect from the doorstep.

In his limited comments yesterday, Mr Clark claimed that everyone at the selection meeting had supported him and that he had been ahead at every stage of the contest. "My past is an open book; every one knows about it. The association knew about it and they still wanted me."

Asked how it felt to be fighting one of the safest seats in the country, he countered that it was the safest scat. Mr Clark, as the hounds on the outside discovered yesterday, also lives in one of the safest houses in the country.

We will lose, says the MP making way for older man

By Andrew Pierce, Political correspondent

almost certainty. Additionally cryptody is warking exceptions ally hard to make sure we do win the election, and it's not THE man who must make way for Alan Clark forecast yesterday that the Tories would "almost certainly" lose the general election. Sir Nicholas Scott, who was deselected after being found face down in . a gutter at the party conference said that Mr Clark

would be sitting on the opposite conclusion and rounded on the commons. The Tory right for making Sir Nicholas, who at 63 is John Major's life difficult. He live years younger than his pledged in deless Mr Major's uccessor, was asked on BBC in the Single Scrool as way that television to give some advice he straight a market process way that he way that he is not to the common to the straight a market part of the common to the straight and the s Well, we'll be in opposition. He is

could have kept the party ogether." John Major welcomed his former ininisterial colleague

entirely settled yet, presently the odds might sinkate that we might not wind. back into the Westminster fold. He said Mr Clark was a shrewd, intelligent, politician who would bring a welcome dash of colour to the Commons. Headded: "I think Alen

Clark is in original.

Asked if he would give him
a job in the Cabinet, he
replied: I am delighted you

Judge for trial on fraud plot charges

Judge Richard Gee, 53, who has sat at the Old Bailey and was committed for trial on conspiracy charges relating to mortgage fraud between 1980 and 1989. Louise Delahunty told Bow Street magistrates that Judge Gee would be strongly fighting the alle-gations. The judge was re-manded on conditional bail.

Sex claim sacking

alleged at a disciplinary hear-ing that he had sexually harassed four women at work. Kenneth Dawes, 46, was assistant director of operations at Oxfordshire NHS

£37,000 for Wren

A Wren whose career ended after she fractured her back in training received £37,500 settlement approved by Judge Lynch. Susan Holden, 27, told Liverpool County Court she had hoped to stay in the Navy for 22 years as a physical training instructor.

West home plan

The site of Fred and Rosemary West's house at 25 Cromwell Street in Glouces ter is to be made into a landscaped walkway. Doug-ias French, the city's Conservative MP, said it was close to making the area a garden of remembrance, which victims' relatives did not want.

Weli's comeback Sadler's Wells Theatre, which is being rebuilt at a cost of £40 million, plans to reopen a well underneath the foundations and sell its water to theatregoers. The well was part of the first theatre in Islington, north London, and was famous for its curative powers in the 17th century.

Night and day

Britain's first 24-hour nursery, Playdays, in Wolver-hampton, catering for par-ents who work night shifts, is-

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Legal wrangle as writer plans to quit home where 19th-century designer spent last years

Sale puts public access to Morris house at risk

ARTS CORRESPONDENT

Judge for train

THE writer and director Christopher Hampton has found himself involved in a lengthy wrangle with a society devoted to William Morris. the 19th-century designer and decorator, over the lease of the house in which Morris lived.

After eight years, Mr Hampton, best known for his adaptation of Les Liaisons Dangereuses, has decided to move out of Kelmscott House, a Georgian house in Hammersmith in which Morris lived for the last 18 years of his life. It is on the market for £895,000 with an option to extend the 36-year lease.

Members of the William Morris Society are desperate to save it for the nation. An admirer donated the house to the society in 1970. Unable to afford to turn it into a museum, it let the four main floors and used the basement for its offices. An initial application for National Lottery cash has been turned down and the

society plans to apply again. Hans Brill, president of the society, which was formed in the 1950s and which has about 2.000 members, explained that, although the house had only a 36-year lease, the 1993 Leasehold Reform Act allowed the purchaser to acquire a 90year extension. That would

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and specialists.



Christopher Hampton has decided to move out of the house in which the designer William Morris lived

Mr Hampton said he had gone out of his way to ensure that he sold the house to someone who would be sympathetic to Morris. "I'm doing my best," he said. "I gave them months to find the money to buy it for the nation and they couldn't." Despite a claim to

he hopes to exchange contracts Mr Brill said: "So far he has done what was legally required of him. By his lease, he was legally bound to offer it back to the trustees. We are grateful for his forebearance

have lost a prospective buyer,

deny the public access to the to get the lottery appeal historic building, he said.

£900,000. John Kay, chairman of the Kelmscott House Trust, said he considered neither side had been obstructive in the negotiations.

Kelmscott House, where Morris had his study and workshop, was visited by George Bernard Shaw, the artists Dante Gabriel Rossetti and Sir Edward Burne-Jones and the composer Gustav Holst-They were among lead-ing figures drawn to a man whose talents as an artist knew no bounds. He founded the firm of Morris and Co to produce wallpapers, furni-

glass and the Kelmscott Press to raise standards of book design and printing.

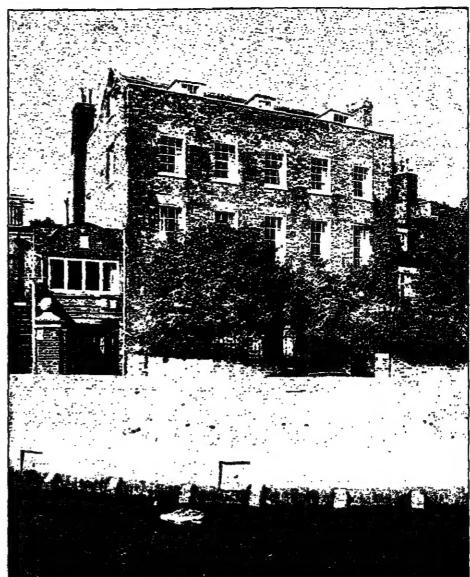
It was in Kelmscott House that Morris was active as a designer and socialist; he had a tapestry loom in one of bedroom. Period details include a chimneypiece de-signed by the architect Philip Webb as a wedding present for Morris.

The society has contacted Tony Blair who urged Mark Fisher, the Shadow Arts Minister, to take up the cause. Mr Fisher expressed concern that the sale would "evict Morris from his own building".

Mr Brill said Hammer

smith council had expressed interest in showing its collection of Victorian paintings, which include works by Burne-Jones, in the house. At the moment, they spend most of the time in storerooms. He added: "The trustees are meeting on January 30 and, unless I can bring them some positive indications that we might succeed, the house will be lost to the public."

A Heritage Lottery Fund spokeswoman said the appli-cation was turned down because the heritage merit was not at risk and the difficult and costly work that would be required to convert the building into an art gallery



Morris's unbounded talents drew leading figures of the day to Kelmscott House

Surgeon to face court over liver girl's death

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

A SURGEON accused of refusing a teenage girl a liver transplant on moral grounds, because she had experimented with drugs, is to fly back from the United States to appear in court in Scotland.

The fatal accident inquiry into the death of Michelle Paul, 15, was adjourned yesterday until April 28 to allow Dr Hilary Sanfey to attend with legal representation. She now works in Virginia.

Aberdeen Sheriff Court was told on the second day of the inquiry that Miss Paul had suffered complete liver failure as a result of swallowing half an Ecstasy tablet. Sheriff Graeme Warner said Dr Sanfey was contacted after Miss Paul's mother. Carolann Paul. 37, said in court on Thursday that her daughter was denied a new liver by the surgeon. It would have been

her only hope of survival. Miss Paul, from Aberdeen died in November, 1995, six days after she was admitted to the transplant unit at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. Mrs Paul said Dr Sanfey told her that, if they gave a liver to Michelle, "they would be denying someone else". Doctors had told her they took a team decision to deny her a new liver "on moral grounds". A family history of drug abuse had also raised concerns about post-transplant care.

Academic elite wins bulk of research cash

By David Charter, Education correspondent

VICE-CHANCELLORS yesterday defended the existence of an elite of universities after the decision to focus research funding on the most highly rated academics:

Top-rated university departments would receive 20 per cent more government money than those in the next category, the Higher Education Funding Council said. Those in Grades 1 or 2, the lowest of seven categories, would receive none.

Grade 2 departments have hitherto received government funds. Now 58 per cent of research departments at former polytechnics will be denied funding, compared with 3.5 per cent at traditional universities.

Sir Derek Roberts, Provostof University College London, which came fifth in the research league table, said that the awards underlined the existence of an elite group of universities. Twenty universities have ten or more of the top-rated departments, with the highest concentrations at Cambridge (44), Oxford (40), UCL (29), Bristol (20), and Birmingham, Manchester and Sheffield (all 18). Sir Derek objected to the

term "lvy League". He said that some universities concentrated on research excellence, others on undergraduate teaching. The perception of an 'lvy League' is that somehow it is all to do with prestige. and privilege." One would not refer to the top half of the viootball Premiership as an Ivy League, as though they had

got a divine right to be there", he said. "It is just a fact of life." He added: "If you look through the results of the research assessment, you find Cambridge at the top and Luton at the bottom, and to

suggest they are equivalent in terms of the quality of education, the standard of degrees and their commitment to research is not just stupid, it is damaging to Luton. The point is recognising diversity."

Sir Derek said that he

believed in an honest awareuniversities. The fact of life is that it is wrong to believe we have an homogeneous

Sir Colin Campbell, Vice-Chancellor of Nottingham, which has 16 top-rated departments, said: "I think there is a consensus in the university system that there has to be selective investment to back the really strong departments. The key point is to keep the things we have that are worldclass and in a position to compete with the other world-class nstitutions in North America. Europe and Australasia."

A spokesman for the funding council said: "We will focus money more narrowly at a subject level. The more toprated departments you have got, the more money you are going to get."

Dr Peter North, Vice-Chan-

cellor of Oxford, again gave warning yesterday that universities faced a funding crisis because of grant cuts for equipment and teaching undergraduates. He wrote in Oxford's annual report that the whole university system was being damaged by a 34 per cent cut over the past

"No commercial concern could have coped with cuts of this magnitude without reducing the quality of its goods or services," he said. "If this general reduction in funding continues, we shall end up with a second-rate university

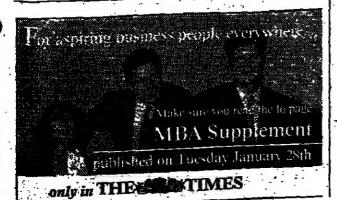
Tests begin on potent American Aids drug

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

potentially ten times more to be effective against HIV potent than any on the market which has developed resishas been developed by an tance to other drugs. It be-American company. The longs to a class called protease drug, ABT-378, is being tested inhibitors, which, used in on healthy volunteers to check conjunction with older drugs

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Hunt begins for finest churches of modern era

By Marcus Binney, architecture correspondent

THE hunt is on to find and list the 20th century's best and least-known churches before they are demolished, stripped of fittings or turned into flats. Heading the list is the igloo-like chapel at Heathrow, built

underground to isolate it from aircraft noise. The Anglican chaplain. the Rev David Smith, said: "There are no signposts to the chapel in any of the terminals. It's a beautiful place with amazing acoustics, open all day, every day, but spoilt by appalling light

The Heathrow chapel was designed by Sir Frederick Gibberd, better known as architect of Liverpool's Roman Catholic cathedral. Gibberd designed the chapel with a revolving floor which would turn to face Anglican, Catholic and Free Church altars at the push of a button. The search has been launched by the Twentieth Century Society with an exhiBritish Architects' Heinz Gallery. Its director, Kenneth Powell. said: "Twenty years ago, it was the Victorian churches which were being demolished and made redundant. Now it's our own century: not only inner-city churches, but churches in suburbs and on housing estates of the 1920s and 1930s.

"In the 19th century, to build a church was the highest achievement for any architect. but, since 1900, church building has been seen increasingly as a backwater. Many remarkable postwar churches were never illustrated in any book or magazine, and the congregations think that because they are not in a guide book, they can't be of interest.

The broad-churchmanship of the C of E has produced an astonishing range of architecture in this century, which cannot be paralleled anywhere in Europe, from austere Protestant interiors to the most extravagant ceremonial-



The Chapel of St George at Heathrow, designed by the architect of Liverpool's Roman Catholic cathedral

ism." Elain Harwood, one of exhibition organisers. said: "We think there may be as many as 4,000 20th-century churches of all denominations in Britain. Yet only about 80 churches of the 1920s and 30s have been listed, and only II postwar ones, though the Department of National Heritage is considering another 33 recommendations.

The society was alarmed when the Church Commissioners gave permission in Erkenwald in Southend-on-Sea. Essex, a huge church by one of the most revered of the early 20th-century traditionalists, Sir Walter Tapper. This was followed within months by the demolition of the Grade II* listed St Christopher's, at Withington, Manchester, and Holy Angels, Salford. Two highly rated churches, at St Oswald's, in Preston, Lancashire, and St Wilfrid's, in Brighton, were turned into

The caricature image of a

flats in the 1980s.

modern church with an apology for a spire and a leaking flat roof is rejected by the society. Alan Powers, its vice-chairman, said: "Even the reviled 60s were an exciting period of church building. The amazing aspect of 20th-century church architecture is its range."

Roderick Gradidge, an architect, said: "Too many people walk round churches as if they were art galleries. They should experience these churches as used for worship." rials, such as very thin concrete and asbestos, but increased grants from English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund offer hope that problems can be solved. With £20 million available in grants each year, 20th-century churches may soon be queueing up for listing.

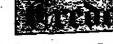
the experimental use of mate-

The exhibition, Toe 20th Church, is at the Heinz Gal-lery, 21 Portman Square,

London WI, until March 8.

their legacy. Many will be tak-

"This will help to increase under-standing and dispel some of the prejudice that is around. Islam does still suffer from an awful lot of stereotyping in this country."
Dr Richard Stone, who helped to set up the Maimonides foundation.



Time to follow the lead of our founding saints

Ian Bradley

MANY sources have supplied and replenished the pure living water of Christian faith in the British Isles over the past 1,500 years. Two particularly important streams began to flow in the period after the departure of the Romans. One had its source in Rome and entered England with St Augustine's mission to Kent, the other came from Ireland and entered Scotland with St Columba's journey to

It is a happy coincidence that, in 1997, we celebrate both these streams, this year being the 1,400th anniversary of St Augustine's arrival in Kent and of Columba's death on Iona. Each has contributed much to the Christian life and character of Britain - the Augustinian stream, with its broad, eirenic tolerance, its lofty language and sensitive pas-toral concern; the Columban stream, coursing through

the rugged terrain of the Celts, with its fierce integrity and fervent enthusiasm, its austerity and its theological disp-All who try to

live as Christians in Britain at the 20th century carry something of

ing part later this year in pilgrimages to commemowhich they and their succes-

Pilgrimage is an appropriate way to celebrate the events of 597. Both Columba and Augustine were Christians on the move, whose faith expressed itself in dynamic forms and who con-

ceived the Church in terms of provisional rather than permanent structures. We can learn much from the example of our Celtic and Anglo-Saxon ancestors, who worshipped God in simple wattle and daub huts that could easily be discarded, dismantled or extended as circumstances changed. There are lessons to be learnt from their engage-

ment with contemporary culture, their use of symbol poem and story in prefer ence to concept, argument and sermon, and the spirituality and artistic and scho-lastic achievements of the monasteries which they planted across the countryside. They brought comple mentary gifts to the infant British Church that are still much needed today: the order, stability and catholicity of Gregorian Rome as well as the more anarchic and free-wheeling spirituality of 6th-century Ireland

The most important mess-

age that Columba Augustine about leadership. they to back in Were come 1997. I suspect that both would be put down by icalous leagues, hounded by journalists and squashed by com-

preserve the statns quo and a quiet life. We must ask whether we have the vision and the courage to find and to follow the saints in our own midst today.

The Rev Ian Bradley lectures in church history at Aberdeen University. His book Columba: Pilgrim and Penitent is published by Wild Goose Publications

Forum to bridge gap between three main faiths Bishop of Oxford, who chairs the Council of Christians and Jews, said:

By RUTH GLEDHILL

RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A NEW body aimed at improving relations between Jews, Muslims and Christians is to be launched this weekend with the aim of widening the contact between preachers, teachers and leaders of all three faiths.

The Three Faiths Forum, the first body of its kind in Britain, is to be based in north London at the Sternberg Centre, Europe's largest Jewish cultural centre. The initiative comes as tensions between the three faiths, which share a common true with regard to the Abrahamic

Abrahamic root, have come to the fore in areas such as the former Yugoslavia. In Britain the leaders of all religions are increasingly aware of the need to work together and of what each faith can learn from the

Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan, speaking recently at the Reform Jewish movement's Leo Baeck College in London, said: "Only by celebrating what we have in common and understanding and tolerating our differences can we offer hope for a better future. This is particularly

faiths, for Judaism, Christianity and Islam are all branches of the same family.

The Three Faiths Forum will work alongside organisations such as the Interfaith Network, the Council of Christians and Jews, the Maimonides foundation and the Abrahamic forum, set up last October by the International Council of Christians and Jews to improve contacts between the three faiths.

The forum has the backing of Dr Zaki Badawi, chairman of the Council of Imams and Mosques of Great Britain, and has been welcomed by

the Board of Deputies of British Jews. It was set up by Sir Sigmund Sternberg, a buisnessman and phi-lanthropist, chairman of the executive committee of the International Council of Christians and Jews.

Sir Sigmund said: "The forum is open to all those who, while adhering to their respective religious faiths, are committed to the vital task of developing mutual respect. It is hoped, through dialogue conducive to friendship and trust, to widen the contacts between preachers, teachers and writers from all three faiths." The Right Rev Richard Harries,

that Jews support Muslims." At your service. Weekend, page 15

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said: "I am keen that Jews should

have closer relationships with moderate Muslims, that Muslims sup-port Jews in problems we have, and

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Internet army vies with crusty colonels to spot first cuckoo

RETIRED colonels, the traditional chroniclers of the first cuckoo of spring, are facing stiff competition this year from thousands of schoolchildren armed with tiny video camreras and computers. The pupils will attempt to record for the first time the exact spot where the bird lands and calls

It is hoped the children will also chronicle the arrival of frog spawn in ponds, the opening of the first snowdrop, and when and where the first swallows leave to return to South Africa.
Pupils across Britain are to

become desktop naturalists, exchanging information over the internet to map the passage of the seasons, under the scheme launched by the environmental charity Ground-work and backed by the National Grid. The organisers are planning to plug the cameras into nests and nest boxes when animals and birds take up residence. It is also hoped to extend the project to

fied what they believe to be the first sighting of a wild American car back duck in Britain. The duck a male, was spotted in Norfolk in a group of pochards, a common and similar-sized duck that migrates to Britain for winter. It was seen flying between Downham Market and the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust's reserve at Welney. If confirmed, it will be the first sighting in Britain since records began in the 1950s.

schools in Europe, where many migratory birds, espe-cially in Mediterranean countries, are shot for fun or sport. It is hoped that by involving children the practices might

eventually be outlawed. Instant access to the nests of birds, such as blue and great tits, is being made possible by microcameras — tiny video cameras — linked into the

children can witness egg laying, hatching and feeding over computer lines from their

John Rhymer, head of the Bishopswood Environmental Education Centre in Worcestershire, who is helping to mastermind the scheme, said yesterday that microcameras had already been installed underneath his centre so that pupils could watch mice and voles moving in and out of their homes to forage. He said it was hoped to install microcameras in the homes of other animals, including bad-ger sets and rabbit burrows. Dormice, nesting at a reserve in Bramley Firth, Hampshire, are also set to become tele-

Mr Rhymer said that because the cameras had infra-red emitters, producing small amounts of heat, they would be switched off during hibernation so that the animals were not tricked into believing it was spring. Instead the cameras will be

vision stars.



Becky Jones, 8, places a camera in a bird's nesting box at Bishopswood Environmental Educational Centre

retired colonels who battle it

out in the newspaper letter

He said many teachers were

switched on when the dormice awaken, so that schoolchildren, plugged into the Internet, can watch the creatures coming and going from nests live on their computers. Mr Rhymer said: It will

excited because they and their pupils would be getting free weather information, sent over computer lines, from make a change for children to register the first cuckoo of eight automatic weather staspring, outdoing all those tions from Newcastle to Plym-

columns."

outh. Educationalists behind the project, called Four Seasons, hope the information gathered by the schools will help scientists studying the

impact of global warming. Over several years the recording of information on wildlife and seasons will, it is hoped, give clues as to whether rising temperatures are affecting animals and plants. Dave Bettis, education man ager at Groundwork, said vesterday: "By delivering the national curriculum through real-life environmental projects, teachers in the class room have access to a range of new

THE SUNDAY TIMES JFK'S EX FILE



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in The Sunday Times Magazine tomorrow

THE SUNDAY TIMES THE SUNDAY PAPERS

University bird expert guilty of disturbing nests

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

and his accomplice were convicted yesterday of intentionally disturbing protected rare birds in their nests.

The case was the latest to result from police raids on the homes of bird enthusiasts in eight counties in late 1994 when more than 11,000 birds eggs, as well as documents and photographs, were seized.

Police gathered intelligence from a raid two months earlier on the Red Lion Hotel in Salisbury, Wiltshire, during the annual dinner of the Jourdain Society, a registered charity devoted to the scientific study of birds eggs. Bird conservationists have long suspected the society of being used for exchanging information on the black-market trade in birds' eggs, an allegation which the society strenuously

1.7

Andrew Dixon, 31, a research lecturer at Sunderland University and author of academic papers on bird breeding biology, and Andrew Lawrence, 35, of Brynmawr, Gwent, were each given a conditional discharge for 18 months by Salisbury magistrates. Dixon was ordered to pay £500 towards prosecution costs and Lawrence £350.

Dixon was found guilty of

A RESPECTED ornithologist: three offences of deliberately disturbing stone curlews on Satisbury Plain and black-

tailed godwits in Lancashire. Lawrence was convicted of two offences of disturbing peregrine falcons. Thirteen other charges against Dixon, and four against Lawrence, involving alleged disturbance of red kites, hobbies, peregrine falcons, Dartford warblers, cirl buntings and goshawks, were dismissed for lack of

evidence after a five-day trial. The court accepted that Dixon had a valid licence allowing him to visit the nests of peregrine falcons for research purposes. Paul Rice, for the prosecution, said that a diary kept by Dixon contained details, such as the size of are clutches, which he could only have discovered by looking directly into the birds' nests. Expert witnesses called by the prosecution said that birds of prey were peculiarly suscepti-

ble to human interference. For the defence, Peter Codner submitted that no wrongdoing had been proved. There was no direct evidence that any bird was disturbed except for the three cases of the peregrine falcons "where Dr Dixon was carrying out a lawful duty for which he is licensed, he said.

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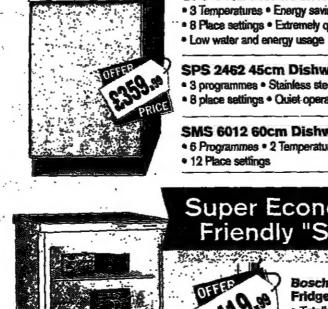
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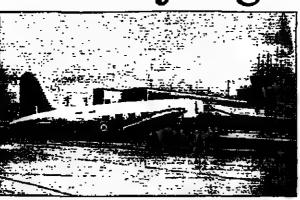
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Museum vandals destroy 50 years of flying history

A VINTAGE aircraft that took two years to restore has been destroyed in an arson attack by vandals. The Vickers Valetta, one of only three of its type in the world, was set alight on its stand outside the North East Aircraft Museum in Sunderland.

Dave Charles, the museum chairman, said yesterday that he wept as he watched firemen damping down the ruined aircraft. "I had to walk away because I started to cry. I realise it is just a big piece of metal, but it represents this country's heritage and a lot of work by a dedicated group of volunteers, all of whom are heartbroken about what has

happened."
Mr Charles, 34, added:
"There are only two other
Valettas in the world now. It was so rare that it would be impossible to put a price on it. I have been involved with the museum for 16 years and each year I travel up to 7,000 miles on business connected with it. But after this I have to wonder about the long-term future of what we are trying to achieve." The Valetta was based on



The Vickers Valetta in its RAF heyday at Istanbul airport. It was used mainly for transporting VIPs

wartime Wellington bomber, designed by Barnes Wallis, inventor of the bouncing bomb. It incorporated the Wellington's fuselage and engines and the first one of its type entered service with the RAF 50 years ago as a replace-ment for the Dakota. Used as a transport plane, it could carry 16 VIPs, 36 parachutists or light vehicles such as Land Rovers. It was known affec-

The vandalised Valetta first flew on January 9, 1950, and between 1951 and 1968, when it made way for the Hercules, variants of which are still in use today. It spent much of its life as VIP transport and, coincidentally, a lot of its flying was from the British air base at the Maltese capital, Valetta, after which the aircraft was named in honour of

land. It also spent time in Germany and Gibraltar. The plane, fitted with two Bristol Siddeley Hercules engines, is 65ft long and has a wingspan of 89ft. Scores were

the wartime siege of the is-

they were decommissioned. The two other survivors are in the Royal Aircraft Museum at Wolverhampton and the Nor-folk and Suffolk Aviation

The wrecked aircraft was bought in 1969 by the Sunder-land Flying Club, which kept it for ten years before handing it over to the museum. It was the largest aircraft in the collection until the museum obtained a Vulcan bomber in

Enthusiasts who had restored the plane in time for last year's Sunderland Airshow, were devastated at its destruction. Craig Blundred, the museum publicity officer said: "We are disgusted that something like this could happen. The aircraft can never be replaced. Our members and enthusiasts around the country will be sickened that heritage like this has been destroyed. This year was going to be the Valetta's fiftieth anniversary and we were planning a special celebration

"It had to stay outside because there was no room to



keep it inside the museum. In a sense it was vulnerable, but there is little that can be done

to stop such determined and stupid vandalism " A spokesman for Northumhas been a target of vandal attacks in the past but this

time it was completely burnt

out. Our officers are investigating. This was a senseless crime that destroyed an irreplacable part of our nation's heritage."

A spokesman for the RAF said: "It is disgraceful that someone should choose to destroy a historic aircraft in this way. We hope the police

 We are all feeling a great sense of sadness and loss at the are successful in bringing fhose responsible to justice."

Mr Charles said: "In one moment of mindless vandalmoment."

ism they have wiped out two

years of strenuous effort and

50 years of history. It sickens

me to think about it. It is

impossible to replace and was

It is the second time in five months that the museum, next to the Nissan car plant, has been attacked by arsonists. In September the old Sunderland far too hadly damaged to save.

Private hospitals win VAT appeal

BY MUCIUSE HORSNELL

A VAT windfall worth more than £100 million could be paid to private hospitals after a Court of Appeal ruling. A five-year legal battle brought by a group of private health companies, which claimed they should not pay VAT on drugs and some surgical appliances, has ended in a victory against Customs and Excise.

The repayment of the money has been frozen, how-ever. after Customs anpounced yesterday that it will seek leave to appeal to the House of Lords. Failing that, it will consider asking Parliament for changes in legislation that would oblige private hos-

pitals to pay VAT.

Barry Hassell, chief executive of the Independent Health Care Association, said: "The importance of the victory for the independent sector is that this moves us towards a level playing field with the NHS. The NHS is able to recover all of its VAT whereas we have not been able. We, as individwe do not. If we do need them, the fact that it is a private hospital or NHS should have

no bearing on VAT." The legal fight against a Customs ruling that private hospitals could not reclaim VAT on purchases of medical supplies was led by the Weilington Hospital in London.

A Customs spokesman said: The appeal court ruling has provided a tax break for private hospitals that the taxpayer will basically have to foot. It to appeal. The money will be frozen until all avenues of appeal have been exhausted."

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Vicar is acquitted of stealing cheques

VICAR was acquitted yesterday of embezzling more than £7,000 from parish funds. The Rev Stephen Ashton, 41,

denied three charges of theft, dating from 1989 and 1990, when he was vicar of St Wilfrid and St Anne, in Newton Heath, Greater Manches-The prosecution at

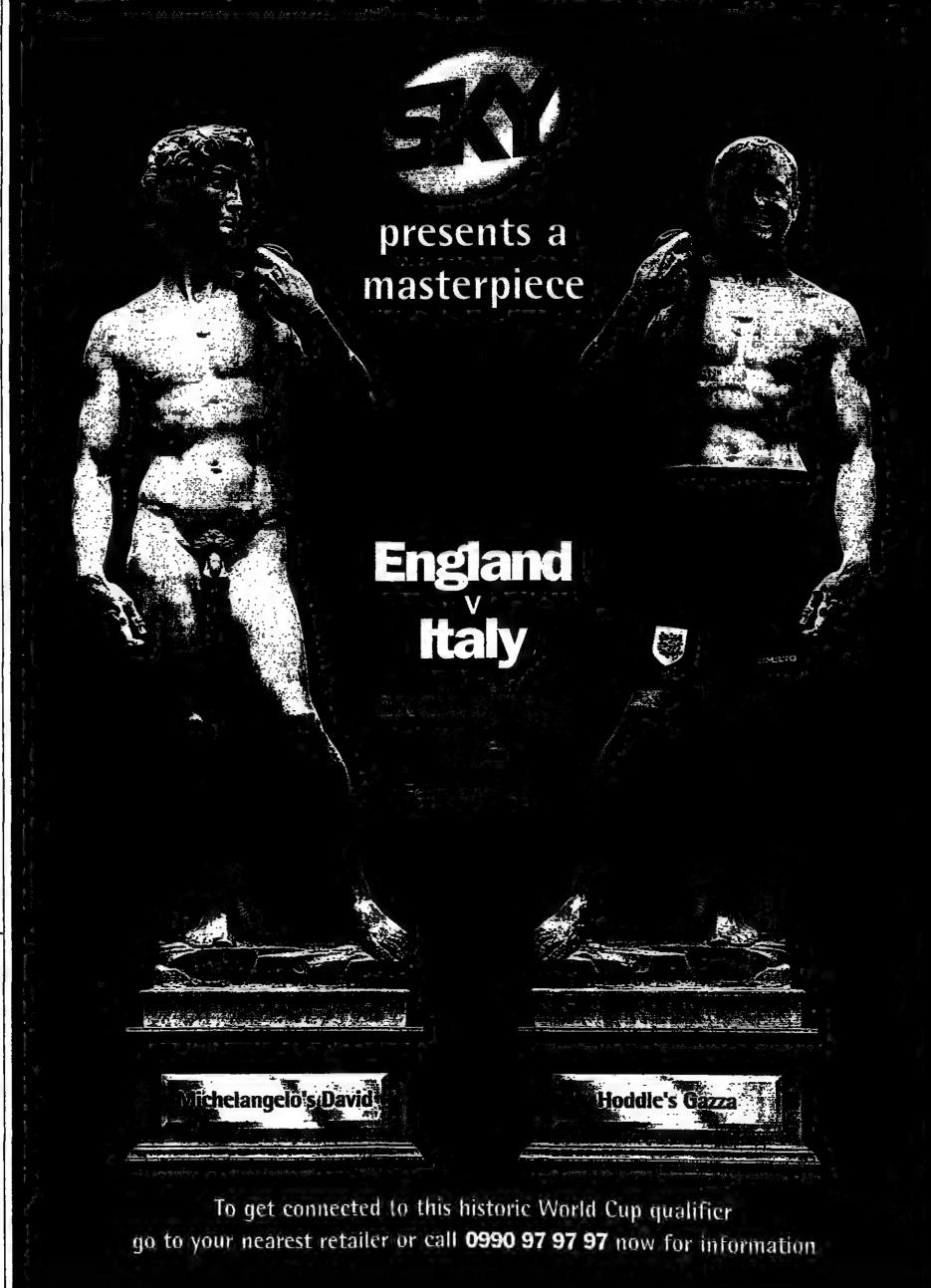
leged that he applied for money from the Ecclesiastical insurance Fund to cover claims for vandalism and theft. It was said that cheques were siphoned off into a secret church account and into his bank account. A retrial was ordered after a trial in May last year.

In January 1994, Mr Ashton, who became vicar of Braege with Germoe, in Cornwall, appeared before magistrates in Launceston, charged with stealing church artefacts. They were told that Mr Ashton, who had been treated for depression, had stolen four prints from Morwenstow Church, Cornwall, and a plaster figure from St Mary's, in Par. He was sentenced to 100 hours' community service.

At that time, his solicitor said that Mr Ashton had been under strain, As a campaigner against the ordination of women priests he had received threats. He resigned from the church over the issue and received a £24,000 payoff.

Mr Ashton said outside court yesterday: "I am ex-tremely relieved. I have always

maintained my innocence."



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Shop stewards angry at rejection of peace plan to end Liverpool dispute

Dockers threaten to intensify strike

DOCKERS in Liverpool yesterday threatened to continue Britain's longest current strike with renewed ferocity" after their peace plan was rejected by port managers.

The dispute has gone on for 16 months, four months longer than the miners' strike. It has been soured by allegations of arson, intimidation, assault and thuggery. The homes of directors of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company have been attacked, strike-breakers have been threatened and a community divided.

Yesterday Jimmy Nolan. leader of the shop stewards. said the dispute could end by the dockers forming themselves into an employment agency to provide staff to port employers. He claimed the dockers could raise 5500,000 towards the cost of an agency in which the company would have a controlling stake to enable the men to continue as members of the pension fund.

But he insisted that, in return, workers from the Drake Ports agency, who took over their 329 jobs, should be dismissed. Mr Nolan said: We recommend that they



Police attempt to clear demonstrators at Mersey Docks. The 16-month dispute has been soured by allegations of assault and intimidation

remove all the labour that they have used during the dispute. they do that, we will be appy. Then we can sit down and resolve the problem.

But the offer was rejected by Eric Leatherbarrow, one of the company directors. He said: Since the Drake men started, creased by 50 per cent and our customers have renewed confidence in us. We have indicated we would support the of customers." He said the establishment of a co-operanew development should not tive on a fully commercial distract attention from the strike leaders' refusal to hold a basis, but the suggestion that it should replace the Drake secret ballot on the company's workforce, who have so draown offer. This involves reemploying the men for 12 matically transformed the prospects of the port, is totally weeks and then paying off all unacceptable but 40 of them, who could

"To accede to such a demand would seriously undermine the port's excellence, performance and confidence

are over 50 and believe they should be able to hold on to their former jobs until they retire before handing them down to their children or relatives. Bobby Morton, a ship we have endured has been terrible, with debts piling apply for jobs, with a £28,000un and houses being reposhead redundancy package sessed, but we are determined

been attacked, its windows shattered by bricks. Only prompt action by neighbours prevented a potentially fatal incident when the wooden garage door of Trevor Furlong, the company's chief executive, was doused with petrol and set ablaze.

The dockers' leaders deny that any of the sacked strikers



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Latest football score: the blind are leading the blind

By DANIEL McGrory

SUPPORTERS gathering on the terraces for a Cup match today will be asked to curb their natural inclination to barrack and bawl. Rattles and klaxons are

The players are blind and need to be able to hear the clatter of 100 ball bearings packed inside their football andto hear instructions from their goalkeeper, who is partially sighted.

However, the players do encourage the honoured tradition of having their fans berate the referee with insults about how the match officials need their eyes testing for some of the

Gavin Griffiths, who will be playing this afternoon, said: "We hate the idea of people being over-sensitive.

We just want to play."

While this is the weekend for some of the biggest footballing names to con-cern themselves with the FA Cup. footballers_from five teams for the blind and visually impaired meet in Coventry at the Midlands Sports Centre for the Disabled in the first tournsment of its kind.

Walls of pain from the pitch are often louder than in most other games. Mr Griffiths, who helped to organise the tournament,

dmitted: "Our tackling is a lot rougher and looks more brutal because you where the other player is."

Those taking part say the bone-crunching noises make 'il more exciting. been a bit too lenient in the past on our ciumsy tackies. and we want

them to tighten up a bit. They play in teams of five a side, which can be men and women. and on enclosed courts so that the ball does not go out of play, but Mr Griffiths. 23, said: "We want to play on grass because our game

at half time, so as not to disorientate themselves. Players use their arms to the outside of the pitch. They allow the ball to go over waist height as they like to head it, even though

it is heavier than a normal FA match ball.

For international games, the players have a coach behind the goal giving di-rectional instructions, but on today they will rely on their goalkeeper and "on listening for the thud of the other fellow's boots coming towards you. We are like bats relying on echoes." For penalties, the referee will place the ball and then line

up the player.

Mr Griffiths, from Earlsdon, Coventry, has been blind since he was two. He believes that too many blind and visually impaired players give up the sport when they leave college.

In a recent international tournament. England lost in the final to Spain only in the last few minutes. Angela Weller, of British Blind Sport, said that football was growing in popularity, as were many other blind sports. The blind can do so many sports with just a little bit of help. They

don't want separate rules."
In golf, players rely on a sighted caddy to describe the hole and any obstacles. alone against the clock, with someone halfway along the track shouting instructions. For longer dis-

 ← Tackling is rougher and it looks much more brutal,

because you are not sure where the other

player is 9

is getting faster."
They do not change ends

tance, the athlete will be tethered to a sighted runner, but the blind competitor must stay in front to avoid allegations of being pulled.

For

jump.

long jump, triple

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board. Cricket-

ers use a soft ball about the

size of a football, again filled with ball bearings. The wicket is only 18 yards long. Competitors in judo feel the size of their competitor, and then begin the match by holding on to

Blind competitors also take part in riding, bowls, ten-pin bowling, cycling, archery, javelin throwing and shot putt. Angela Weller said: "As with so to play the sport just like the able-bodied."

Sport, pages 54-60



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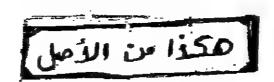
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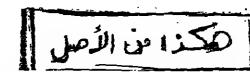
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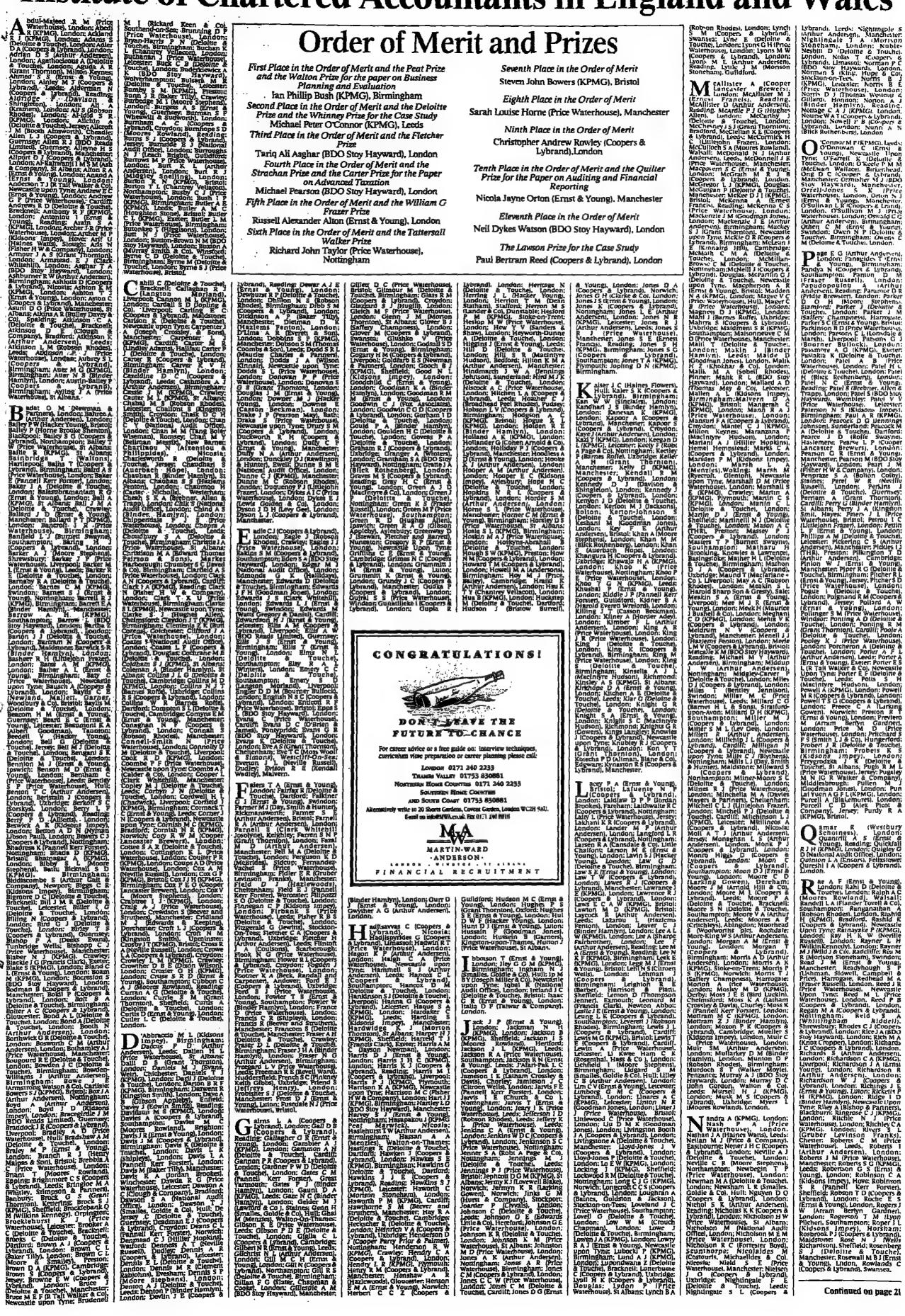
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Law Report January 25 1997 Queen's Bench

No taxation review after certificate issued

Bromsgrove Medical Prod-ucts Ltd v Edgar Vaughan and Co Ltd

Before Mr Justice Chadwick |Judgment December 9|

A taxing officer had no power to review a taxation after the issue of a certificate for the costs allowed on a provisional taxation under Order 62, rule 31(4) to (7) of the Rules of the Supreme Court where no party had informed the court of its wish to be heard.

its wish to be neard.

Mr Justice Chadwick, sitting as an additional judge of the Queen's Bench Division in Birmingham, so held in a reserved judgment allowing an application by the plaintiff, Bromsgrove Medical Products Ltd., and setting aside the leave given by District Judge Anderson on August 16, 1996 to the deferon August 16, 1996 to the defendant, Edgar Vaughan and Co Ltd.
to have a taxation of the plaintiff's costs under Order 62, rule 31(4) to

reviewed. Mr Thomas Rochford for the plaintiff: Mr Simon Clegg for the

said that the application raised a point of some difficulty in relation to the practice on a provisional In addition, the following successful candidates were retaxation under Order 62, rule 31. quired to pass three papers at The issue was whether a taxing officer had power, under rule 33, to Final. In the fourth subject, review a taxation after a certificate Advanced Taxation, they must successfully complete a scheme of competence-led assessment in order to pass the

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on page 23

issued in a case where he had proceeded under rule 31(4) to (7) without either party having informed the court of its wish to be heard on the taxation.

Rule 22(1)(a) required that a taxing officer should, at the conclusion of taxation proceedings before him, issue a certificate for the costs allowed by him.

The rules contained no express provision defining the point at which the proceedings were to be taken as concluded; but the pos-ition could be ascertained by ition could be ascertained by reference in the provisions for review contained in Part VI of Order 62

Where there was no appoint where there was no appointment for a maxion, then the proceedings before the taxing officer could not be regarded as concluded until the expiry of 14 days after the parry whose bill it was had received notice of the amount which the taxing officer proposed to allow in respect of the bill following the provisional faxation.

Where neither the paying party nor the receiving party had in-formed the proper officer that he wished to be heard on the taxation, MR JUSTICE CHADWICK the proceedings before the taxing officer had to be taken to have concluded 14 days after that notice was given to him. In those circumstances there was nothing left for the taxing officer to do except issue

on his provisional taxation, it was a necessary implication from the scheme of the review procedure in Part VI of Order 62 that the existence of a taxing officer's certificate was a bar to review by

the taxing officer. The power of a taxing officer to set aside a certificate was limited which that power was exercised in period provided by rule 33 to apply for a review. There was no general power for a taxing officer to set aside a certificate, once issued.

It could not be a proper exercise of the power conferred by rule 22(1)(e) to set aside a certificate in circumstances where, even in the absence of a certificate, no applica tion for review could be made under rule 33. Rule 33(1) expressly excluded from the review proce dure a decision on a provisional

His Lordship was satisfied that a decision as to the amount which the taxing officer proposed to allow, for the purposes of rule 31(0) was a decision on a provisional taxation. There was no power to review it under rule 33; and so no power under rule 22(1)(e) to set aside a certificate in order to enable an application for review to be made under that rule.

Solicitors: Wragge & Co, Birmingham; Rutherfords.

Adjudicator need not consider points not made by applicant

Ex Parte Sureshkumar On hearing asylum applications it was not incumbent on an im-migration special adjudicator to consider relevant points not taken on an applicant's behalf if the outcome would have been the same whether or not the points had

been expressly taken. The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Saville and Lord Justice Brooke) so stated on December 19 when refusing Kumarasamy Suresh-kumar, a citizen of Sri Lanka, his renewed application for leave to apply for judicial review of the refusal by the Immigration Appeal Tribunal of leave to appeal against the refusal by a special adjudicator

of leave to enter the UK. LORD JUSTICE BROOKE SAM that the applicant sought leave contending that it had been incumbent on the special adjudicator to consider the applicant's position in accordance with the law relating to

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alternative"; an issue on which the adjudicator had received neither evidence nor submissions.

Whether the adjudicatory authorities, in particular the immigration Appeal Tribunal, were under a duty to take relevant points of their own motion was an important question. However, if a supervisory court was of the opinion that the result would be identical whether or not a point was expressly taken, then it should

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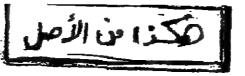
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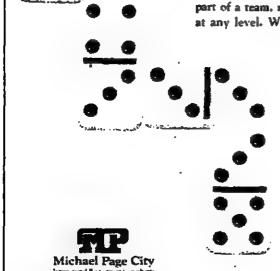
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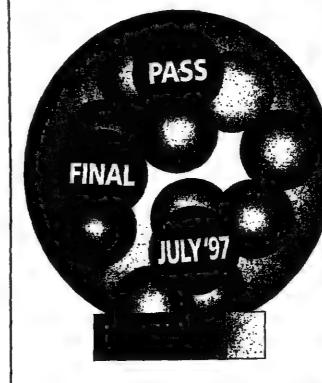
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■ THEATRE

Harold Pinter shocks us all over again with his National Theatre revival of The Homecoming



MUSIC

Seven pianists, including his widow, pay tribute to John Ogdon in a packed memorial gala

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GOING OUT



GOING OUT

while comeback kids Suede take Bradford by storm. For what's on this weekend, see The Directory

REMEMBERING Ogdon, the finest British pianist this century, for what would have been his 60th birthday next week, afforded an occasion of gala dimensions on Tuesday. No fewer than seven outstanding pianists assembled in tribute to their peer, and to benefit two organisations concerned to support young artists, the John Ogdon Foundation and

the Park Lane Group. As is the way with such events. too much was crammed into the programme, prolonging it to well over three hours, but retaining its audience with a wealth of pianistic artistry. Ogdon himself was visibly recalled, and heard at the keyboard, in excerpts from a televised South Bank Show made shortly before his death in 1989, and his widow, the pianist Brenda Lucas, was among the

She played her husband's An American Sonata, found **Party**

Ogdon Gala

work of substance and imagi-

Closest to Ogdon in key board character was probably

Etudes-tableaux by No 2, Op 17.

loudest cheers for his virtuoso command in Balakires's noto-

Last but not at all least, the recipient of the John Ogdon Scholarship, impressed by the keen intellect and rhythmic subtlety she brought to Chopin and Szymanowski to add to a memorable parade of

> story? On the face of it, she is the respectable English wife of

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pieces

CONCERT

Oueen Elizabeth Hall

Peter Donohoe, whose agile fingerwork and romantic fervour enhanced his choice of

Rachmaninov. He returned at the end with Boris Berezovsky for more of the same composer, in a finely judged partner-ship for a two-piano account of the Romance and Tarantella from Rachmaninov's Suite Berezovsky earlier won the

rious Islamey, and his compatriots Dmitri Alexeev and Nikolai Demidenko were admired in Brahms and Liszt respectively, the latter graphic and glittering in the flamboy-ant Reminiscences de Don Japanese Naomi Iwase, first

pianistic panache.

NOEL GOODWIN

THEATRE

indsay Duncan is just the actress for Harold Pinter's plays. She is svelte, poised, imperturbable; but behind that creamy face and standoffish manner there is a hint of something disturbed and disturbing. That is why she was well cast in Pinter's recent Ashes to Ashes, and why she is equally effective in his master-The Homecoming. Then, she played an aloof, unruffled wife whose mind teemed with images of sexual

violence. Now, she is quietly bringing to life the most powerful, tantalising and elusive of all Pinter's powerful, After all, what is Ruth's

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PASCINATING AIDA

a respectable English academic working in America. When we meet her, she is paying a duty visit to the grotty section of London where his family lives. But it is a pretty bizarre homecoming. Her husband, Teddy, returns to his campus alone, having grudgingly handed her over to his father and brothers, whose plan is to put her on the game.

The Homecoming

Lyttelton

As a cub critic in 1965, I reviewed the play's world pre-miere in Cardiff, and well recall the dismayed twittering in the hotel lounge where struggled to pen an overnight notice. And nobody could blame those expostulating Welsh men and women. It was a shocking play, not least because the demure but steely Ruth had herself organised her impending posting to Soho. Indeed, a test of any revival of The Homecoming is this: has the play retained its

troubling pull? Here the answer is yes and no. Roger Michell's produc-tion is gratuitously slow. He sometimes allows Pinter's famous pauses to become silences, and his silences to escalate into long, wordless dirges. Yet the play's strange, sinister atmosphere is not lost thanks to some strong, tense acting and, not least, William Dudley's set. You see through gauze-like walls beyond the barnlike living room specified in the text to shadowy places on both the first and second floors. The impression is of lairs where these unprepos-

sessing people broad and lurk. That is fitting, for the play may be seen as a cool, watchful study in human 200logy. The men here affect finer feelings only occasionally and then for show. Mainly they are motivated by animal drives: for power, dominance and,



Harold Pinter pulls down the blind and reveals a new staging of The Homecoming. starring (from left) Michael Sheen, the excellent Lindsay Duncan and David Bradley

woman who will be both the family's surrogate mother and

its private whore. David Bradley, playing the pateriamilias, Max, sets the mood. He moves slowly and creakily, his face set in a twisted scowl, his voice as rasping and rancorous as if he

were gargling with old iron. self. Seeing her pinched,
As his second son, Lenny, stricken face at the start, your

acter's macho bluster, maybe feels when her sensuality is too much. You never quite acknowledged and her longrepressed instincts are rebelieve that this often mocking but sometimes hysterically shrill mophead is a pimp practised enough to run Ruth. leased. The sight of her in command of the males who believe they control her would. But there is decent support I think, leave Cardiff from Sam Kelly, Keith Allen and, above all, Duncan hertwittering once again.

BENEDICT - NIGHTINGALE Michael Sheen emphasises don't doubt her boredom. Nor This review appeared in later with the arrival of Ruth, a the insecurity behind the char- do you doubt the relief she editions of The Times yesterday

recently among his music manuscripts, and sounding a nation. A short and thoughtful Bagatelle, also by Ogdon, was testimony to the youthful skill of Mark Gasser, as was an energetic Motus perpetuus in Busoni-like style by Ronald Stevenson.

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OPINION

Is it her or isn't it? Why Spain and Hollywood are trading insults over the alleged Monroe sex movie



CINEMA

Golden age of the silver screen: London showcases America's fabulous movie theatres





ON MONDAY

View halloo! To hunt or to ban hunting? Melvyn Bragg adds his distinctive voice to the frav



NEXT WEEK

The changing face of the capital is revealed in a controversial new Museum of London show

The big news of the week? Step aside, Portillo. Wait year turn, Clinton. Don't rain on my parade ground, General Sir Peter de la Billière. Spain and America are going to war over a pornographic film allegedly

starring Marilyn Monroe.
Yes, I thought that gross exaggeration would add a little spice to your comilakes. These are the facts. Or perhaps they aren't facts. but that's all part of the story. Some while back, a Spanish film festival announced that it was going to unveil a short but actionpacked movie showing Monroe having sex with what the showbiz paper Variety describes intrigu-ingly as a "scrawny man".

Every historic discovery comes with a plausible yarn attached, and this is no exception. The lomm film was allegedly made in 1947, sold for a few dollars at a Paris flea market in 1977, and does indeed feature a game young lass who looks something like the premakeover Norma Jean Baker. The revelation, if that is what it

Some like it hot, but not that hot tion. Next, The New York Times will weigh in with a ponderous editorial. The Monroe Porn-Film is, has not been rapturously received in the States. The Spanish say that their find has been

authenticated by the American Film Institute. The institute says is well on its way to becoming the Turin Shroud of our time. the authentication is itself not All this strikes me as odd. When authentic. The Monroe estate has declared itself saddened and scepthe "was Jane Austen gay?" row was raging in the raunchy col-umns of the London Review of Books last year, one could under-stand why the exchanges ignited tical. American film critics claim that, even if the face is Monroe's, the body isn't. (How do they tell these things?) Hugh Hefner has violent passions. The question cast his expert eye over the does fundamentally affect the way disputed flesh and announced that it is "an obvious hoax".

one reads the novels.

But the revelation that Monroe had casual sex with scrawny men - and indeed with stocky men, paunchy men, dumpy men and lots of men called Kennedy - is hardly news. What's annoyed Hollywood about this little movie, I think, is the fact that it punctures her on-screen mystique. The point about Monroe's cinematic allure,

surely, was the tension between

RICHARD MORRISON

simmering sexual promise and wide-eyed innocence. Shatter that equilibrium with some grainy skin-flick that reveals everything, and you rob Hollywood's greatest sex symbol of her erotic power.

What I want to know, though, is what happened to the scrawny man. If he is still alive, he could confirm whether his parmer was the real Marilyn. Or could he? Were they ever properly intro-duced before they played their epic scene? I fear we may never know.

ystique is an important part of every branch of entertainment is it not? How else can one explain the strange magnetism that impels otherwise same folk to part with huge sums of money in order to be in the same stadium as an adored icon — even though logic tells them that the experience will be deeply

unsatisfactory? This gloomy question is prompted by a letter from an English reader, Derek Walker, who attended the New Year's Eve concert

given a few weeks ago by our old

tenorial friends. Messes Pavaroni. Domingo and Carreras, in Vancouver. Like many others in the stadium that night (to judge from the scathing reports in the Canadi-an press) he is furious. "I paid C\$540 for our two tickets, which is expensive by any standard," Mr Walker writes. "But we found ourselves at one end of a large football stadium with the stage at the opposite end."

Well, so far so commonplace. Paying £200 to be at the other end of a stadium from Pavarotti is one of the defining experiences of modern culture. Another is finding out later that, because supply greatly exceeded demand, you are itting next to someone who picked up a ticket for a mere £30 or so, as many in Vancouver discovered. But let Mr Walker continue with

his sorry tale: "We could only see the singers

courtesy of two video screens, but as we were so far away the sound and vision was out of sync. The ultimate disgrace was that although the publicity indicated that the three tenors would sine up to and through the midnight hour. they left the stage at 11.50, and at 11.55 the whole orchestra left. We were left with an unknown chat show host and the choir - the former remarking that he did not

recall being abandoned before." Mr Walker has written to the concert promoter demanding a refund. Good luck to him CBS News has reported that while the Three Tenors banked CSI million each after the concert and the promoter rather more than that,

local sponsors lost C\$9.4 million. That's showbusiness. I guess. After reading Mr Walker's letter is said to my wife: "If you ever see me extract £400 from my wallet to pay for tickets to hear a large tenor sing in a football stadium, you have my permission to shoot me."

"Don't worry," she replied. "I've never seen you open your wallet."

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t is March 1927, and you are seated in one of 6,214 red plush seats monogrammed with an R. Frankincense wafts through the air-conditioning vents. You have been conducted to your seat by one of a corps of 125 hand-picked ushers, each as intensely trained in decorum as a West Point cadet. This is New York's Roxy, billed as the Cathedral of the Motion Picture" and the creation of Samuel Lionel Rochasel, who went on to mastermind Radio City Hall.

The golden age of the movie theatre - Americans never call them cinemas - is celebrated in a current London exhibition (and accompanying book), Ticket to Paradise. The writer and photographer John Margolies has travelled tirelessly across America discovering movie palaces great and small, demolished and closed. as well as a significant num-

Whether in big cities or onehorse towns, American movie. theatres were brighter, brasher and showier than almost anything the urbanity of Europe could tolerate. The Tutankhamun discoveries of

MES

ber enthusiastically restored.

Dream palaces

The Spanish report that Holly-

wood is just cross that its greatest

screen goddess has been exposed

as a jumped-up porn-movie play-er. They have "run tests" on the film, believe it to be genuine, and are going to show it next weekend.

Four times, actually, Now the hotline between Washington and

Madrid is zinging with indigna-

Marcus Binney takes his red plush

seat for a celebration of America's

Egyptian buildings more col-outful than the Hoover factory, complete with life-sized mummy" figures executed in shining glazed tiles. Out west the fashion was for facades inspired by Latin American Baroque churches, all twisted columns and writhing

cornices.
In California, names such as Esquire, Crest and Fremont in Illuminated. were displayed in illuminated. letters as large and bright as the gaughts and crosses on the the 1920s inspired in small. like tiaras, while the winged towns across Utah and Illinois. Signe of Madam Butterfly on

golden age of movie theatres a theatre in Milwaukee was lit

up by more than 200 bulbs.

The most magical interiors were the "atmospherics", mainly the creations of the architect John Eberson, whose auditorium at the Warner in Atlantic City was like the square of a Spanish town, overlooked by ornamental fa-cades with balconies. Above was a deep blue sky, floating clouds and hundreds of twinkling stars in an astronomically correct heaven.

ment came from the punters themselves. "Are you getting

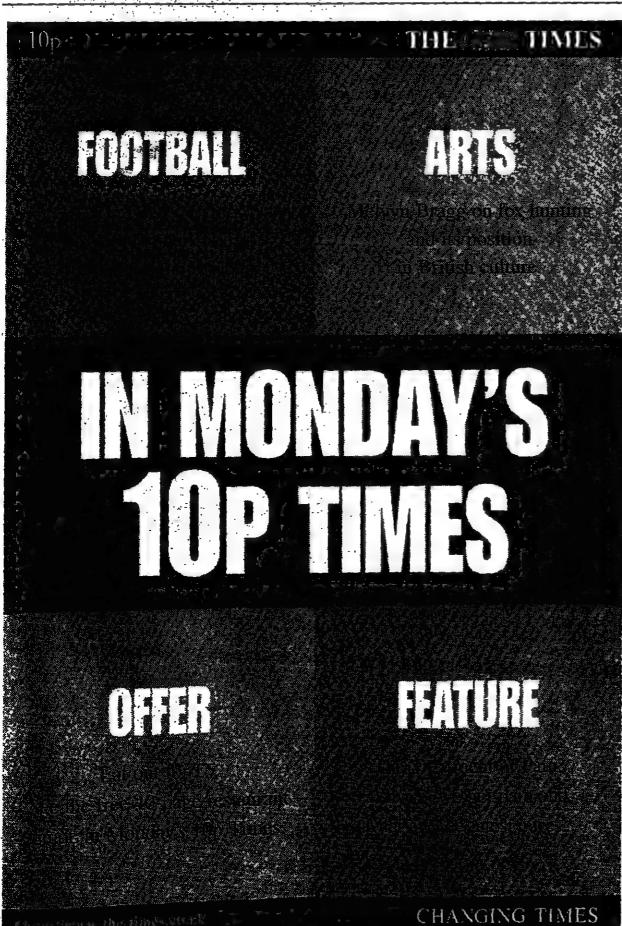
ful business?" ran a flyer for a chain of motion picture the-atres being built in Chicago in 1910. Later the money to build these extravaganzas came from studios such as Warner, Paramount and Fox, which owned chains of theatres until, perhaps disastrously, they were forced to sell under antitrust laws in the 1950s. This was also the era when out-oftown drive ins spelt doom for main-street movie theatres, but even here the inexhaustible Margolies finds illuminated hoardings as flamboyant

and vulgar as the Chevvies parked there every night. There have been tragic losses, including the Roxy in New York, demolished in 1960, but with others the turnaround has been speedy and dramatic. The Fox in St Louis, closed in 1978, was soon restored to all its Siamese Baroque spiendour, complete with a grand staircase in gold. ivory and marble.

Hollywood may be the city of dreams, but every little town in America was dream-



The 1926 Hollywood Theatre in Portland, Oregon and, right, the Spanish colonial-style Fox Westwood Village in Los Angeles





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Globalisation: is it the death of Leviathan?

Harold James says trade will force

Europe to abandon big government

ony Blair recently opened up what will be the key political issue for the next century: the size of the State. He pointed out that when Clement Attlee left office in 1951, state spending amounted to about 30 per cent of national income (whereas the current level is more than 40 per cent). And he came to the conclusion that there inevitably wold be a critical examination of the size of the public sector

in the next few years,

The traditional understanding of what states do is now challenged by globalisation: the increasingly rapid integration of the global econo-my. The process of managing reform of the State is far from being a simple political task.

An unprecedented expansion of the State accompanied the first Industrial Revolution in the 18th and 19th centuries. New wealth gave greater resources to governments, and new problems called for collective solutions. By the late 19th century, a German economist, Adolph Wagner, even formulated a "law" of the constant growth of state expenditure, and of the increasing share of the State in national income. The organisation of the new states, bureaucratic and hierarchical, was also mirrored in business organisation, with numerous layers of authority and control. At the moment, Wagner's law is going into reverse.

Collective management from the top down - the characteristic behaviour of the modern state - will stand in the way of is to survive effective institutional adaptation to global change. In addition, transfer payments - inof the late 20th-century

state - are the opposite

of wealth creation. One answer sometimes given is that the global market will simply force states to adapt. Indeed, in some countries Wagner's law of increasing state expenditure, characteristic of the first Industrial Revolution, has already gone into reverse. By attacking universal entitlement programmes, some countries (notably New Zealand. Chile, but also Ireland) have radically reduced the share of public expenditure of national income. Similar reforms, in particular the elimination of many subsidies to the prosperous middle classes, are urgently needed in other European states, including Britain. But in practice, states have a tendency to postpone necessary reform, until a sudden collapse of confidence forces an adjustment that would have been much more painless if it had been undertaken in a timely way. Britain had a peculiarly agonising case of this in 1976.

Many of the institutional adaptations required in responding to globalisation can best be tackled in an international framework, rather than at a national level. Some aspects of this new economic order are relatively well understood, even though the case-by-case application of such principles is full of arguments and difficulties. This is the case in working out a framework for the effective liberalisation of trade in goods and services, and of capital flows.

Liberalising labour laws to allow and encourage more flexible forms of employment is also a task that may be easier to accomplish politically through international agreement, because otherwise there will be constant national suspicions and recriminations that other countries are engaging in "undercutting" or "social protectionism".

It may even be the case that arrangements to stabilise government budgets can more easily be worked out on a cross-national basis. Some countries have managed heroic feats of fiscal retrenchment only to let expenditures and deficits rise again. Britain is a striking example. After surpluses at the beginning of the 1990s, the budget deficit as a share of gross domestic product rose to 6.4 per cent in 1993 and 5.3 per cent in 1995. This is why the current debate

about the consequences of Maastricht is so unfortunate and untimely. The Maastricht cri..ria for monetary union are being interpreted in debate as a recipe for deflation and sustained high levels of unemployment.

Two quite separate issues have become hopelessly caught up with each other. Fiscal stabilisation is essential in order to prevent a vicious cycle in which the servicing of public debt requires ever larger shares of current expenditure and also of national income. Only the reduction of public claims on savings will free larger sums for private sector investment.

But fiscal stabilisation is much harder in the absence of sustained growth. The attempt to cut expenditures or increase taxes necessarily provokes protest; and if the attempt is successful, growth may be further reduced.

If the EU

it needs to

reverse its

historical

direction

A fiscal stabilisation agreement only makes sense in a context of an expanding resource base. This can be accomplished only by accompanying the fiscal measures by a package designed to achieve long-

An old-fashioned Keynesian-style boost for demand, as is sometimes now touted as a solution to Europe's unemployment mai-

aise, will hardly do this trick. This is why some sort of concerted reduction of barriers to employment is needed, including a lowering of taxes and national insurance

It would be helpful to conduct this liberalisation on an international level - for instance, through the European Union - rather than leaving the debate to national governments and parliaments, which are more easily influenced and obstructed by pressure groups. This does not require an abolition of the welfare state"; but it does mean a very substantial refinement and reshaping, and in particular a reduction of the huge transfer payments now being made.

The European Union began as an institution for a Europe committed to a greater share of government in national resources, in which states would play a major role as redistributors of income. If the EU is to survive, and not to be torn apart by increasingly vociferous claims for redistribution, presented with increasingly nationalistic language, it needs to reverse its hitorical direction. The way that the EU will survive in the next 40 years is as a guide and a manager of liberalisation.

Britain should not just seek a new role in Europe: it should also find a new role for Europe. The challenge of globalisation requires a response that goes beyond the present muddle in both Britain and

The author is Professor of History at Princeton University. His pamphlet. Global Opportunities: liberalising world trade and labour markets, will be published on Monday by Politeia.

Archaeologists only had to down magnifying glasses for Juppé to give in, says Ben Macintyre

the blues, and the wave of gloom sweeping the country has found expression in a slew of industrial protests touching some of the most unlikely corners of the I rance has a profound case of of the mass week alone saw strikes and demonstrations by transport workers, bank clerks, seamstresses and archaeologists. On Thursday the rail unions are planning another one-day stoppage. Part-time actors have taken to storming theatres around the country and last Monday the nation's astrologers, in a rare moment of unanimity, announced the setting up of a

On the surface the strikes and demonstrations appear to have little in common: the drivers are demanding retirement at 55; the archaeologists marched to protect an important Roman excavation site from housing developers; the employees of Credit Foncier bank feared job losses under a government plan to break up the indebted property-lender; and the actors want to preserve the social security benefits they enjoy while "resting".

vorkers' federation.

How the bourgeoisie is paralysing France

facing an uncertain future which. given their professed expertise, seemed rather strange.

But lurking behind the unrest is a generalised fear that long-estab-lished acquis sociaux, the perks and guarantees established under the postwar welfare state, are about to be eradicated in the cost-cutting march to monetary union.

Despite having one of the lowest ratios of union membership in Europe, France is well versed in the techniques of melodramatic protest. Taking to the streets is a tradition stretching back beyond the Revolution, reflecting a culture that often lacks strong institutions of communication between gover-

established and, in the eyes of some, bizarrely tolerated. When French lorry drivers illegally clogged up every road last November the majority of citizens applauded, the police stood by and the Government caved in. Still smarting from the crippling transport strikes of last winter, the Prime Minister. Alain Juppé, is plainly desperate to avoid another full-

scale industrial conflagration. Encouraged by a rattled Government and a sympathetic public, the larger unions are mobilising for . another demonstration of muscle, but it is the patchwork of smaller, unpredictable and often highly eccentric protests that most closely

Eight days ago, hundreds of employees of the Crédit Foncier stormed into the bank's Paris headquarters and took the governor and seven officials hostage. Jérôme Meyssonnier found him-

down in the atrium, his employees have been conducting what can only he described as a huge and rowdy slumber party, with singing. dancing and plenty of liquid refreshment. The demonstrators take it in turns to serve the customers. M Meyssonmer did not seem to

self living off canteen food while,

mind the indignity and only requested that the press did not photograph him asleep on the mattress provided by social ser-vices. After six days he was released, praising his employees for their good sense. The occupa-tion continues. Meanwhile, down in the southern city of Rodez, archaeologists downed their mag-nifying glasses and toothbrushes and staged a general strike, accus-ing M Juppé of giving permission for a construction project on top of important Gallo-Roman ruins. A strike by archaeologists might

A strike by archaeologists might seem about as threatening as a work stoppage by vicars, but faced by ranks of serious protesters with beards and doctorates, the Govern-ment backpedalled fast, ordered the bulldozers to leave and agreed to give the archaeologists £70,000

to carry out excavation work. France is quietly bubbling with a frustration that has no single explanation and many contributing causes, including rising unemployment, high taxes, political corruption and economic uncertainty in the drive to a single currency. Whether the Government can keep the promises made at Maastricht at the same time as buying its way out be a question that only the Federa-

Charmer Clark's last stand

As Kensington and Chelsea rejoices,

the great Tory cavalier might reflect on his political comeback thus . . .

altwood, November: Fool, Clark, fool. This is humiliating. Newbury, Arundel, Tunbridge Wells, Devon. Nothing but misery. I feel like a 25-Young Conservative, traipsing the country, feigning fascination with some grotty back-water where I wouldn't be seen dead. I simply do not care if five batty hags do or do not "want me" as their "member". Tory candidate selection is pure sadism. The Yanks are right. Have a primary and appeal over the heads of the cabalistas direct to the proles. Last night I was treated as the

alien rapist from outer Kent. I was shortlisted only so the harridans could ogle me. Then they choose some whey-faced apparatchik from Major's private office, forced on them by the whips with prom-

ises of lavish honours. In future 1 white Commonwealth: Surrey, Sussex, perhaps Kensington if poor Nick has to walk the olank. Politics is awful.

It requires one to yearn for the misfortune of others. Albany, Wednesday December 11:

Why oh why do I do radio? Jim Naughtie came out with it direct, "Come on, Mr Clark, would you not really like to be MP for Kensington?" I hesitated, then said, "Yes, I would." I immediately regretted it. Honesty is always the worst policy. It was too de bas en haut. As Curzon said, you should never take a post that does you a greater honour than you do it. A constituency should be begging me to stand, yet I sounded as if I was seeking a job as Chelsea Arts Club doorman. The BBC deputed (I'm sure deliberately) a revolting hermaphrodite bursting out of her tights to show me out of the studio, while Naughtie gloated. The whole incident lacked style. I slumped into the DBS feeling miserable. Only the sight of hopfields south of Maidstone cheered me un.

Shortlisted to last six at Kensington, which makes a change from the Neanderthals at Tunbridge and Hove. Every time I am rejected I feel low and every time I get shortlisted I feel even lower. It just means a more painful rejection. I also seriously doubt my ability to

defend this Government. Dropped by at Brooks's on Friday where everyone thinks Major is coming off his trolley. I suppose a 30-point poll deficit gets under even the toughest hide. He has induced my namesake to give the Queen a new yacht, apparently to appease the middle class. This is ridiculous. The middle classes do not care about yachts. Now Major wants to revive the school cadet corps, a typical Boy Scout idea. Nobody who ever "did corps" could possibly believe it a vote-winner. Young Portillo apparently craves a private army, presumably to attend his enthronement as Holy Roman Emperor at the Escorial

Albany, Tuesday January 20: Ex-traordinary debate on the Today

list. Matthew Parris says that what the party needs there is "fruitcake, not some vanilla-flavoured pixie". I am told mark is detama tory, but may be

supportive in certain circles. God knows what's going on. Major has let Howard completely off the leash. Myra Hindley has been roused from obscurity to be told. via the Daily Mail, that she will stay in jug until she dies. Tacky, even for this bunch. The wags are saying, come election day, Howard wants to drag her from her cell, pump her full of bullets before the cameras — then demand the leadership by acclamation.

I am torn between desperately wanting to get back into the House and give the Right a moral lead. and yearning for the lot of them to be given the thrashing of their lives by that smarmy Blair.

Saltwood, Wednesday January 22: Sometimes, just sometimes, the sun shines. Down to the final four for Squiffy Scott's old seat. At least it's a constituency where one could contemplate spending a night. Come to that, I remember one or two nights in that part of town. I wonder if, horror of horrors, they might be on the selection committee. Ageing is dreadful. One day a. mini-skirted secretary is walking you upstairs to bed, the next she's a Tory councillor and has your whole future by the short hairs. A man is defenceless against this sort of thing. Damn Flaubert.



I am fighting the classic trio from Conservative Central Casting: a dreary right-wing lawyer who will doubtless be chosen as "leadership potential", a statutory local councilfor whom they dare not omit, and an inevitable North-Country skirt: Some ghoul from Central Office will doubtless demand to know why none of us is black. I am clearly the bit of fun on the side. Still, it's a tremendous boost to be up in lights again. Bill in the village

seemed really pleased.

The reptiles will do for me by endlessly repeating page 123 (earlier diary reference to his Plymouth officials as "peny, malign, churnsily conspiratorial") and picking over the character thing. I was chuffed when a prat on television asked an adorable association member what she thought of me, and she said she just wanted to "see me in the flesh". I find this strangely erotic. It is the kind of battle I admit I enjoy. Anyway it is probably Clark's Last Stand, the final thrust of the lance before Alzheimer's closes over me. I had a call in the midst of all this from William who said a heron had been worrying the mallards again. i told him to call the Home Secretary and invite him to garrotte

Albany, Thursday January 23, AM: The big day I feel like Cardigan at Baladays, breaking his horse from a trot to a canter and crying, "Here goes the last of Brudenells." I remember fondly how in days gone by there would be that cosseting call from Herself, a verbal pat on the knee and a slight stirring in the loins. I still dream of going through fire and water for Fier. Funny stuff, adrenalin. The bowels are back in order.

I began at Saltwood with Jane at her most sweet and supportive. Shedid the eggs and we discussed the DBS versus the Bernley. I decided. one is Chelsea, the other Kensington, but which to drive! When the two associations merged in the Seventies, relations were poisonous. Arty Chelsea types couldn't abide the Kensington toffs. I should have found out if Charles Chelses still has any clout down there, but I imagine the King's Road poujadistes ended his droit de seigneur long ago. The fact is I haven't the patience to sit in public libraries mugging up on local issues. So it will have to be Charmer Clark. Honesty Clark, Elder Statesman to the Aid of the Party Clark.

We decide on the Bentley. It is

(SCS), which supplied databases to

more dignified in defeat.

bonus alone would have cost me a Hispano-Suiza. Kensington Town Hall was ghastly, like a comprehensive school canteen. I spoke well (really), much better than last week when frankly I stumbled, Being 68 was probably a plus. The older members (which is most of them) treated me as a young roue, while the younger ones doubt if I can make it to the milleonium. Then they can have the fun of pretending to select a prime minister again. Congratulations poured in from Jonathan, Perry and the Brute. They said I was just what the party needed and I should not hold

Saltwood, Friday January 23:

What a marvellous creature the

Conservative Party is. I was so nervous leaving Albany I almost winged a BMW 840 coupe in the

courtyard. The loss of no-claims

myself back. I am too old not to be flattered. Who knows? Palmerston, Disraeli, Asquith. Churchill were all party leaders over 70. One thing I have learnt. Compared to the sycophants and schemers in Westminster and Downing Street, politics has nothing half as sensible or decent as a local 'Conservative association. Those people are sheer unadulterated good judgment. We must make more use of it.

News hounds

Castle, Alan Clark's castellated home in Kent, were out short vesterday when one of his rottweilers saw off a BBC cameraman leaving a tear in his trousers and blood on his leg.

Clark was with his charming wife Jane at Saltwood, basking in the glory of his election to fight for Kensington & Chelsea in place of the disgraced MP Sir Nicholas Scott. The family rottwellers Hannah (named after Hannah Reich. Hitler's test-pilot) and Leni (after Leni Riefenstahl. Hitler's film director) were locked up when journalists began to arrive.

But after the crowds had disappeared. Leni and Hannah burst excitedly from their holder and headed for the BBC team who had remained behind. Mrs Clark sprang into action, calling them. But she was too late: the playful girls had cornered the television crew and one of them jumped up and caught his leg just as she was imploring restraint.

Clark's household was said to be mortified by the incident but his detractors are already using his dogs as ammunition. "Typical of him to keep rottweilers," commented one, "large, flashy and arrogant



The Clarks, plus rottweilers

beasts." The BBC takes a sanguine line on such matters, however: "We consider over-excited dogs as one of the hazards of the job and we won't be pursuing this."

Taverna time

GREEK diplomats appear to be the first of their sort to protest against plans for a single currency. Yesterday the Greek Embassy in London went on strike against its Govern-

ment's policies. A thick Greek accent, struggling

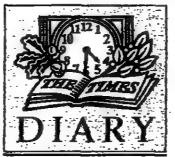
through a mouthful of dolmades. answered the telephone reluctantly at the embassy yesterday: "We also on strike on Thursday and probably also be on strike on Monday and Tuesday."

The diplomats now stand foursquare with seamen, bus drivers truck drivers and many workers in Greece, which recently suffered a nationwide strike. The protests are against stringent economic policies designed to enable Greece to join a single currency.

• The skitchboard at Punch magazine has been swamped with readers disgusted at the front cover of the current issue. They object to a reference on the cover to "toilet humour". Subscriptions are being cancelled. "In the old days. Punch readers went to the lavatory, never to the toilet," trembled one former subscriber.

Self-raising

THE PRINCE of Wales's Eyoreish tendencies extend even to his culinary interests. In The Windsor Castle Cookbook, a charitable publication to raise money for St George's School. Windsor, he has submitted a recipe for the gloomysounding "Probationers Pud" — a dry form of bread-and-butter pudding. His days at Gordonstoun, where the school corridors still



smell of boiled cabbage, must still be affecting him.

Too biblical

HAIL MARYS all round. A French family who bought a video cassette expecting it to be the Bible, found themselves watching a Spanish Xrated movie instead after deliveries

got mixed up. Larousse publishers, known for its dictionaries and encyclopædias, said children in the village of Lezignan-Corbières, in southern France, realised something was wrong only after starting the tape, a film entitled El corredor del hom-

bre (Man's Passage). "We'd entrusted the copying of our cassettes to an editor who mistakenly supplied us with the remainder of a stock of erotic tapes which had not yet been labelled." said the company. "We are going to

withdraw all the tapes from sale in the region immediately and we will replace them with models which have been checked by us," the company added.

Glitched

FOR A billionaire financier spending untold amounts on a referendum campaign, a few thousand pounds here or there would appear a mere trifle. But Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party is being sued over unpaid invoices in Scottund.

A Scottish computer company. Somervail Computer Services



- [1] be enormously disappoint

the Referendum Party to keep track of its electorate, claims it is owed a considerable amount - some 280,000. The case appears on Monday in the Scottish commercial court before Lord Penrose. "We're as confident as we can be, says a company spokesman, "but we're a small operation taking on the best lawyers money can buy." Goldsmith's clan are defending the action on the grounds that the work Was not up to scratch.

Faint-hearted

MY BEST wishes go to Sir Michael Butler, formerly our man in Brussels. At last week's meeting of the Victoria and Albert Museum trustees, which he was chairing at the branch Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood, he suddenly slumped

As he was being lifted on to a stretcher the Blairite Sir Michael managed to croak "Not NHS!" The ambulancemen duly left, so the museum's curator loaded the ailing diplomat into his car and raced to Harley Street. Happily, Sir Michael has made a full recovery.

Alley cat

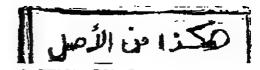
THERE'S little danger of stardom going to the head of Baroness Issy Van Randwyck, whose latest show



lssy: in the cold

opened in the West End with the all-girl cabaret act Fascinating Alda on Thursday night. In the show's finale, the girls run

into the auditorium, their sequinned ballgowns billowing behind them; they clatter up the steps and out through the fover. Then, in their finery, they have to get back to their dressing rooms - and the only route is down a dark, bin-filled alley littered with detritus and the odd tramp. As a direct descendant of William of Orange, Issy is accustomed to red-carpet treatment. "Now that I'm in the West End, I thought I wouldn't have to do draughty corridors," she pouts.





THE BENEFITS BATTLE

Blair treads confidently in Lilley's footsteps

The Left has long believed that the answer to poverty is higher benefits. At the last election, Labour's flagship policy was to increase child benefit and pensions. Yesterday Tony Blair reiterated his new Labour position that "the best form of welfare for people of working age is work". As he awaits the electorate's praise for a sinner repented, there is a prospect now that, whoever wins. the election, the next government will tackle poverty by pulling people out of dependency, not throwing extra pounds at them.

1900pt

policie.

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Peter Lilley, the current Social Security Secretary, has been trying to do just this for five years. Step by step, he has reformed the benefit system so that it contains fewer disincentives to take a job. Through family credit, which sustains families on low wages, to childcare allowances, which permit parents to spend some of their earnings on childcare before their benefit is withdrawn, Mr Lilley's reforms have helped unemployment to fall much faster after this last recession than it did in the 1980s.

But much more change is needed. One of the questions for voters this year will be which party is more likely to deliver it. Mr Blair claims that, like Nixon visiting China, only the party that built the welfare state willbe trusted to reform it. It is certainly easier for him than for John Redwood to address. the problem of single parents without being accused of scapegoating. The Tory style is better suited to attacking unpopular targets, such as trade unions, Argentinians or Brussels bureaucrats, Labour is better trusted to deal with "cuddly" groups, such as nurses or single parents.

Yet Labour has pressures on it too. The full costs of the policy are not yet clear. The poverty lobby has vocal supporters in the

Labour Party, and not all its members are signed up to new Labour's "welfare to work" model. Mr Blair will be relying heavily on support from voluntary organisations who went through their own transformations in the 1980s and are now more hard-headed in their approach.

Many of Labour's welfare reforms have already been tested in Australia. Chief among these is the proposal to encourage more lone mothers back to work, outlined yesterday in Mr Blair's speech. British lone parents are entitled to benefit, with few questions asked, until their youngest child reaches 16. This is in stark contrast to most other European countries. The result is that only 41 per cent of lone mothers in Britain work, compared with 82 per cent in France and 70 per cent in Sweden.

Labour could, eventually, compel them to take up opportunities for work or training, as it intends to do for the young unemployed That might be the best way of cutting the spiralling costs to the State of lone parenthood; and of deterring young women from

embarking on such a state-financed career. From April, Mr Lilley will be piloting his Parent Plus programme, which will use private employment agencies to help lone parents back to work. The Tories, like Labour, have recognised the importance of after-school and holiday clubs to look after children while their mothers are working. But, nationwide, there are only 72,000 such places for the 1.3 million children of lone parents on benefit. There is much more to be done. Around 90 per cent of ione mothers claim that they would work if they could. It is hard for them to complain of being victimised if they are offered a reasonable chance to do so.

ISLAM'S THREAT

The agonies of Algeria send warnings to the north

At a farm on the outskirts of Algiers this. vulnerability of its urban centres to a few week 15 members of one family, including ten women, were hacked to death. In a village south of Algiers, guerrillas murdered a boy and his father on their way to school. These were just the latest of more than 500 students and teachers to die at the hands of Algeria's ferocious Armed Islamist Group (GIA) since 1994, when it warned students to boycott schools because their studies hampered its holy war against the Government.

The killing campaign is not confined to those seeking education. In a garrison town, a bomb placed in a market killed eight and wounded ten; in one small hamlet allow two. explosions within four days allied many more. Within the space of this past week, at least five bombs have plunged Algeria into despair and fear; 17 more have been defused.

It is the poor and defenceless who are being deliberately singled out in the latest surge of homicidal attacks by the GIA guerrillas. Their assault on the peaceable traditions of Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of fasting, seems almost designed to prove the questionable thesis of Samuel Huntingdon, the American academic who argues that Islamic society is inherently violent and intolerant.

For the mass of Algerians who believe nothing of the kind, and who voted last November for a new constitution in the hope that elections would heal the nation's agony, this escalation of a civil war that has claimed at least 60,000 lives is a deception beyond bitterness. For Algeria's near neighbours, including Morocco which has just launched a crackdown on extremist Islam in the universities, the fear of contagion is a penetrating amiety.

In France, even though the overwhelming majority of its large Maghrebian population are law-abiding French citizens, a massive most of the business that currently absorbs police operation is required to limit the the energies of EU governments.

terrorist cells. Yet much of Western Europe has yet to take seriously the notion that Europe's southern frontier may need as much attention as its east. The very nature of the doctrines espoused by Islam's radical underworld makes it difficult to see what the non-Muslim world can do.

insofar as poverty and unemployment breed extremism - which is true to differing degrees in Algeria, Egypt and Morocco closer economic co-operation between the European Union and North Africa is obviously desirable. But that does not deal with the concentration of too much of these countries' wealth in too few hands. Islamis extremism is the latest throw of the political dice after the failed experiments of Nasserist pan-Arabism and Baathist socialism. But there is understandable nervousness about lecturing the region's rulers on free speech and democracy when they are confronted by a primitive, dynamic Islam which denounces the idea of rendering any power unto Caesar as a blasphemous and alien imposition of infidel culture.

Algeria's President Zeroual has scorned mediation so far. But that may be needed if he is to bring in from the political cold such important Algerian minorities as the Berbers, whose participation is vital if the GIA is to be neutralised. King Hassan of Morocco has manoeuvred skilfully to open up the parliamentary system and to bring one at least of the country's Islamist organisations into the political mainstream. External investment and encouragement

have helped to nudge this process forward. Europeans cannot be sure whether instability in the Maghreb will affect them directly. But what is certain is that if it did, this would be an issue greater by far than

DIRTY DANCING

Step, step, glide, glide, kick, kick; kindly leave the floor

Dancing has finally been given its disciplinary code. And not before time, to judge from the barging, aggression and the other cold-blooded professional fouls on the floor we report today. Dance News, the Wisden of the dancing world, is publishing a code of conduct drawn up by the world's glittering twinkle-toed experts. Couples who break it should be given the dance equivalent of a yellow card, and then sent off.

Sentimentalists regret the need for such a code. But it marks the final transition of ballroom dancing from a genteel courting ritual to a fiercely competitive sport at which fortunes are made. This is the last sport at which Britain still leads the world, in expertise, tuition and prize money. Competitors from all over the world have brought the manners of the football stadium and boxing ring to the dancefloor. If dancing is to be recognised as an Olympic sport, as it probably will be in June, it now has to clean

up its act. A rich casket of gold medals should then open. Britain would have won twice as many medals at the last Olympics if dancing had been included as a sport, as it was in the ancient world. When the Victorians codified sports and games for the world, The Times played a prominent part in their deliberations and legislation. So should it now for

these newer sports. The dress regulations of the dancers code are fair, so far as they go. For safety as well as propriety, it is prudent to rule that competitors must stop and replace their shoes sport at which who dates to dance wins.

immediately if they fall off during a dance. Otherwise a rival might try to disable them by a stab with a stiletto heel. Much worse has happened on the Olympic ice-rink. The code may need to be more radical still. It should consider whether it is sensible for its athletes to dress as head waiters, debutantes or flappers. To judge from the latest fashions in equally robust sports, something clinging in Lycra would be more efficient.

It is all very well for the code to declare that competitors must at all times dance anti-clockwise around the floor and avoid collisions. But this rule will prove impossible to enforce, with 24 couples all pushing to catch the judges' eyes. Ballroom dancing has always been the art of getting one's feet out of the way faster than one's partner can step on them. But the sport should now consider changing the shape of the dancefloor from open plan to the shape of a flat ring or torus, in order to force all competitors to proceed in order around the same circular track. The floor should have a long central barrier. with turning posts at either end, as in

chariot-racing As with ancient charioteers, rules are evidently needed against bumping and boring, unfairly whipping the opposition with coattails or feathered frocks, and excess mascara in an event that is part sport, part theatre. The code will broaden and deepen over the years. The first step is the one that counts, recognising that ballroom dancing is no longer a ritual governed by etiquetic. It is a

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

minimum wage

From Mr Benedict Birnberg

Sir, Sir Stanley Kalms and other businessmen (lener, January 23) argue that a minimum wage would be bad for British business because it would lead to job losses. Even if this proposi-tion is well founded, do our doubtless maximum-waged business leaders no longer regard it relevant to consider the morality or social consequences for the community of the impoverish-ment to which the absence of a minimum wage contributes?

Yours faithfully. BENEDICT BIRNBERG. 4 Eliot Place, Blackheath, SE3.

From Mr Ion McCartney MP for Makerfield (Labour)

Sir, I was surprised to read John Hoerner, from Burtons, Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale, from GUS, and Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover attacking the minimum wage in their

In June 1996 one of Mr Hoemer's senior colleagues told Labour that the minimum wage should "provide a simple form of protection for individuals at work"; in September a director of GUS, Jonathan Charkham, said of Labour, "above all the party wants to pursue practical and sensible policies"; and Lord Sainsbury is at odds with his chairman, David Sainsbury, a contributor to the report by the Commission on Public Policy and British Business, which called for a minimum wage (reports and leading arti-

Of the other two signatories to the letter, one, Archie Norman, of Asda. is a warinabe Tory MP; and the other. Sir Stanley Kalms, of Dixons, is a long-term Tory paymaster. Their opposition to a minimum wage must be taken with a large bag of salt.
Only they could ignore the business

case for the minimum wage. This will reduce staff turnover, increase quality in goods and services, boost demand in the local economy and reduce the E3.4 hillion bill for benefits to top up low pay, which is funded by taxes on

Under Labour the level of the national minimum wage will be recommended by a low-pay commission, on which employers, employee representatives and independents will sit. This will take full account of the economic circumstances of the time.

All independent business surveys show growing support for a minimum wage. Business is rejecting the low-pay or no-pay strategy of the Tories. Stanley Kalms et al are increasingly isolated on this issue

Yours sincerely. IAN MCCARTNEY (Labour Employment Spokesperson), House of Commons.

From Dr R. Butler

Sir, Given the enormous amounts of money paid to the likes of Mrs Horlick and Chris Evans, is there not a case for introducing a national maximum wage?

Yours sincerely, Brackenholm, Methven Road. Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria.

Working hours

From the Shadow Environment

Sir, It is worrying that because of politically motivated attacks by the Conservatives, the working-time directive is so misunderstood. Any small business's fear of a 48-hour week is misplaced since, as you reported (Bushness, January 17), nearly every employee who works over 48 hours a week does so voluntarily. These workers will still be able to work extra hours under the new provisions.

It is employees who are forced to work long hours by the minority of cowboy and irresponsible employers, causing stress and risking accidents, who will be protected in future. We will strongly support the CBI and the majority of responsible employers in their desire to reduce the massive costs of poor health and safety pracdoe in the UK.

The 67 per cent of small businesses who are said to oppose the directive on the ground that working hours should be decided between employer and worker need have no fear, since this is integral to the new measures.

Yours sincerely GRAHAM ALLEN. Room 506, 7 Millbank, SWI. January 21.

Whoever you are

From Dr Robert Barnard

Sir, I received this morning an appeal for funds from Dr Brian Mawhinney. It was addressed to:

It seems the Conservative Party are

conducting their appeal for funds with

Mr R. Philos Bergen Profes and it began: Dear Mr Profes

the same dazzling efficiency with which they are governing the country. Yours faithfully. ROBERT BARNARD (Dr Philos (Bergen), former Professor of English), Hazeldene,

Houghley Lane, Leeds, West Yorkshire.

Reply to Tories on Benign origins of the Green Man

From Mr John Hunter

Sir, In his luxuriant tribute Uanuary 18) to the Green Man - the mysterious human face engulfed in foliage commonly found in medieval art and sculpture — Simon Jenkins posits a number of awesome spirit connec-tions and manifestations that are pure

I have found not a jot of evidence to link the Green Man with the Druids, wicker giants, the maypole. Puck. Jack-in-the-Green, or any other guise that Jenkins suggests, other than coffee-table books and New Age musings on television. That is not evi-

Some twenty years ago Kathleen Basford, whose latest book gives rise to Jenkins's article, authoritatively showed the Green Man's origins in Roman art of the 1st century AD, his marvellous development in the Middle Ages, and his rapid fading away at the Reformation and Renaissance. Jack-in-the-Green, associated with May Day, ales, pub signs and chimney sweeps, appears much later and is a secular not sacred figure. The pedigree of the "wild man of pageant and heraldry" is well known and is not related to the Green Man.

I admire the Green Man as much as Simon Jenkins and feel it a disservice to cloak this wonderful figure with fantasies and fictions. He does not need them.

Yours faithfully, JOHN HUNTER, The Market Cross. Thaxted, Essex. Januarv 18.

From Mr Malcolm Brockleshy

Sir. Not all Green Men are portrayed in the bizarre act of discorging foliage from their heads. Many are, but some simply peer out from leaves and branches, as at Southwell Minster, in Nottinghamshire some. like the formidable Green Man at Bamberg, in Bavaria, wear foliate masks, while in other cases the face is an integral part of a carved leaf.

Some are indeed grotesque or menucing, but the majority appear benign and frequently seem worried. Were these carvings "green" reminders that have been watching us over the ages, with their troubled expressions, trying to warn us of the dangers we were incurring? If so, we should heed them. not disparage them.

Mr Jenkins concludes on a sour note, predicting that, with the collapse of civilisation, the trees will reclaim the British Isles and the Green Man will have the last grimace. But his sensitive article on trees last year (October 26) finished in a much more positive vein, looking forward to majestic regeneration of our woodlands. Guarding a great tree, he wrote. 'is a gesture of futurity, the nearest thing we get to touching eternity. There is no optimism to match that of the true woodman".

Perhaps there is more of the Green Man in Simon Jenkins than he cares

Yours faithfully. MALCOLM BROCKLESBY, Croft House, Calverley Road, Oulton, Leeds, West Yorkshire. January 19.

Military cadet force plan for schools

From the Chief Executive of the National Youth Agency

Sir, Plans to spend millions expanding the military cadet force (reports, January 23) show a rather odd choice of priorities. At £68 million government support for the cadet force is already 20 times its help to the rest of the oluntary youth service put together.

What about some more support to the Scouts, Guides, and Woodcraft Folk? What about a boost to the thousands of voluntary youth clubs building self-esteem and providing new experiences for young people who, like the young Major and Portillo, are not attracted to the military?

Young people, especially the most vulnerable, need a variety of opportunities and too many of these have been cut back in recent years.

Yours etc. TOM WYLIE. Chief Executive, National Youth Agency. 17-23 Albion Street, Leicester. January 23.

From Brigadier R. C. Wolverson

Sir, I am sorry that you chose to illustrate today's report on page I about the Government's plans to extend the military cadet organisation with a 40-year-old picture. Things change — not least the front page of The Times. which once had only announcements and notices.

Your amusing photograph may have given the impression that army cadets are a mixture of Dad's Army and Greyfriars School. Nothing is further from the truth of today's cadets. boys - and girls nowadays. A sense of

individual responsibility, the value of teamwork and good citizenship are developed by undertaking challenging activites and by contributing to local communities.

Yours faithfully, CHRISTOPHER WOLVERSON. Rock House, Halse, Somerset. January 23.

From Mr Adrian R. D. Norman

Sir. Young people could get most of the benefits of CCF training without learning to use weapons if they could opt for a modern "civil defence" section. This would require them to be as disciplined. fit and loyal as their military counterparts and offer as much opportunity for adventure and comradeship. Their models would inexample, HM the police, the emergency services. St John Ambulance and mountain rescue teams.

Yours faithfully. ADRIAN R. D. NORMAN. North Wing, Crowcombe Court. Crowcombe, Taunton, Somerset. January 23.

From Mr Alan Blyth

Sir, Surely the cause of better upbringing would be much better served by providing proper funding for children's musical education (now starved of money) rather than the guns the Prime Minister is proposing?

Yours faithfully. ALAN BLYTH, 22 Shilling Street, Lavenham, Suffolk, January 23.

Fact and fiction

From Mr John Elder

Sir. The assumption by Chris Wood-head, the Chief Inspector of Schools (report, January 22), that young viewers are incapable of discriminating between fictional TV cornedy characters such as Del Boy and Rodney (who, incidentally almost always get things wrong) and role models does them a disservice.

Similarly, Waterstone's customers and Channel 4 viewers may not have felt that they were being asked to vore objectively for The Lord of the Rings as "the greatest work of English literature this century" (as lamented by Mr Woodhead) but, in the absence of any other criteria, subjectively for the books which made the greatest impact on them personally - not necessarily the same thing.

Yours laithfully, J. ELDER, 31 Thornbury Avenue. Southampton, Hampshire.

SAS ban

From Brigadier J. F. Rickett

Sir. According to your report today. General Sir Peter de la Billière had to telephone the MoD to find out that he is no longer welcome at SAS regimental functions. What an unbelievable means of informing anyone in the first place and what a disgraceful way to treat the most decorated, successful and popular general that the British Army has had since the Second World War.

MoD policy seems to have vacillated from one extreme to anotherclearing his books for publication in the first place (there were in any case no secrets which would endanger the realm in them) and then pillorying the author three years after the event. Small wonder that standards and

From Mr Nick Beeson

Sir. Unlike Mr Woodhead, I am delighted that The Lord of the Rings has been chosen as the nation's favourite book. A "favourite" is surely the warm familiar object to which you return time and again - not necessarily the best, but the most comfortable.

I frequently return to Tolkien after clambering through the intellectual peaks. Besides. Tolkien's work is a splendid starting point to explore other literature: Homer. Virgil. Dante, Chaucer would all be less daunting to a first-time reader who had read Tolkien.

I would never claim that Tolkien wrote great literature. However, Mr Woodhead should be grateful that the nation did not choose one of the many "blockbusters" of the bestseller list which provide an introduction to

Yours faithfully. NICK BEESON, 5 Alexandra Place. Ilkley, West Yorkshire.

January 22 morals continue to decline in this

country.

It is just as well, given the Prime Minister's initiative on youth joining the cadets, that General Sir Peter de la Billière is President of the Army Cadet

Yours faithfully, J. F. RICKETT (Comptroller), The Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, Waterloo, SEI. January 23.

Weekend Money letters, page 49

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number -0171-782 5046.

Millennial plan to 'finish' cathedral

From Mr Nicholas Ray

Sir. Your article on the application to the Millennium Commission by St Edmundsbury Cathedral in Suffolk (January 20) suggests that the highest aspiration for the design of the new tower is that it should be virtually indistinguishable from the ancient work, on the analogy of Stephen Dykes Bower's haldacchino at the east end of St Paul's. This is to over-

simplify an architectural issue. Some of the very best and most moving Gothic buildings in this country, such as Pearson's Truro Cathedral, were created in the 19th century by architects with a deep knowledge of the style they were working in and a passionate conviction in what they vere doing. There is certainly no spirit of the age which authenticates a single style for today; opportunistic pastiche is always disastrous, but authenric architecture can be made in a revivalist style when the architect has

both the skill and conviction to do it. Dykes Bower's own chancel additions at Bury St Edmunds are excel-lent, but not because they are indistinguishable from earlier work. At a seminar at Bury St Edmunds on September 25, 1996, attended by 100 people from many disciplines, the tower proposal, designed by Dykes Bower and assembled by A. M. Rome, which is now before the Millennium Commission, was welcomed as a design with the capability of matching the highest standards of Gothic revivalist archi-

As the Provost points out, this noble tower would have a greater chance than most Millennium-funded projects of being welcomed, in due course, into the third millennium.

Yours sincerely NICHOLAS RAY, University of Cambridge. Department of Architecture. Scroope Terrace, Cambridge. January 21.

From the Reverend P. L. S. Barrett

Sir, St Edmundsbury is a flourishing cathedral. Its completion would be an excellent way of celebrating the mil-

But I cannot agree with the comment by one of the parishioners that "cathedral building is dying in our country". Fine new cathedrals have been built during this century at Liv-erpool. Guildford and Coventry. Portsmouth Cathedral has been completed as recently as 1991. At several cathedrals, including St Albans. Chelmsford, Southwark, Winchester and Hereford - and, indeed, St Edmundsbury — splendid new ancillary buildings have been erected. More are

being planned. The last 30 years have seen English cathedrals burgeoning with astonishing new life. This was endorsed by the Howe Commission in its report Heritage and Renewal (1994). They are ready to enter the new millennium with hope and confidence.

Yours faithfully, PHILIP BARRETT, The Rectory, Kiln Lane. Onerbourne, Winchester, Hampshire. January 20.

From the Provost of Sheffield

Sir, I am sure the Millennium Conmission should support the completion of St Edmundsbury Cathedral and I wish my colleague James Atwell, the Provost, every success with his application.

However, St Edmundshury is not England's "only incomplete cathe-dral" as you said in your report. Sheffield parish church was also elevated to cathedral status earlier this century, and an ambinous scheme to turn the medieval building round by 90° and vastly enlarge it was initiated by Sir Charles Nicholson. He finished what would have been the new high sanctuary, lady chapel, chapter house and vestries, but construction of the nave was due to begin on the day after the Second World War was declared. After the war, funds were insuffi-

cient and it was never built. A modest extension was added in the 1900s instead. The result is an intriguing if endearing building that faces both ways. The word "unfinished" is written all over it, but perhaps there is an important theological point in that.

Where the great nave door would have been, the Sheffield Supertram now collects passengers from the cathedral stop.

Yours faithfully. MICHAEL SADGROVE The Cathedral Church of St Peter and St Paul, Sheffield, South Yorkshire. January 20.

Towering cheek?

From Sir Clive Sinclair

Sir. Thank heaven English Heritage, which opposes the proposed Millennium Tower in the City on the ground that it is "macho fashion" (report, January 23), was not around when the cathedrals such as Ely were in the

planning stage.
Tall buildings "inspired" then and do now. Let them be built. Who gave these miserable people

any right to interfere? Yours faithfully. CLIVE SINCLAIR (Chairman), Sinclair Research Ltd. 7 York Central, 70 York Way, NI.

January 23.

20



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE January 24: The Princess Royal, President. The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, this afternoon opened Stirling Carers Centre, the Norman MacEwan Centre, Cameronian Street, Upper Craigs, Stiring, and was received by Major Robert Sandeman (Deputy Lieu-

tenant of Stirling and Falkirk).

Her Royal Highness afterwards attended the National Seminar and Annual General Meeting of the Local Sports Councils at the Stakis Dunblane Hydro Hotel. The Princess Royal, Patron.

National Association of Victims Support Schemes, was represented by the Lord Woolf at the Memorial Service for Mrs Mary Tuck (for mer Chairman) which was held in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, Mayfair, London WI, this afternoon, ST JAMES'S PALACE January 24: The Prince of Wales

today visited Tyne and Wear and

The President of the State of Israel

will pay a state visit to Britain on February 25-27. The President and

State visit

Church news

University news

The university is to award bonor Mrs Reuma Weizman will be staying at Buckingham Palace. literature and the arts.

Master of Arts: the Rev Morgan Phillips, a former university chap-lain. for his contribution to the university and the community.

The Rev Margaret Mortist Bish op's Chaplain for People Affected by HIV/Aids, and Honorary Curate. Holy Trinity and All Saints. Loughborough (Leicester): to be also an Honorary Canon of The Rev David Moss. Curate.

Highworth w Sevenhampton and inglesham and Hannington: to be Vicar, St Michael and All Angels, Bedminster (Bristol). The Rev Richard Owen, permission to officiate, diocese York:

to be Assistant Curate (NSM).

York, St Olave (York).

The Rev William Quinney, Rector, Nailstone All Saints and Carlton St Andrew w Shackerstone St Peter (Leicester): to be also an Honorary Canon of Leicester Cathedral.

Ninth Sunday before Easter

was received by Her Majesty's

Lord-Lieutenant (Colonel Sir Ralph Carr-Ellison). His Royal

Highness this morning toured Grainger Market, Grainger

The Prince of Wales, President.

The Prince's Trust, afterwards

visited the Somervyl Centre,

Longbenton, reviewed the work of

the Trust in the North East and

His Royal Highness, President, this afternoon visited Tyneside

Business Centre, Saville Street,

North Shields, and attended a

Reception for staff and volunteers

of The Prince's Trust. The Prince of Wales later visited

Bedes World, Jarrow, toured

exhibits and met members of staff.

exhibits and met members of staff.

His Royal Highness, President,
Business in the Community, afterwards chaired a meeting at
Newcastle Airport for business
leaders who undertook a "Seeing is
Believing" visit to schools in North
Tyneside.

met local residents.

Street, Newcastle upon Tyne.

ary degrees to the following: Doctor of the University: Inh. Banks for his contribution to

Latest wills

Henry Arthur Ward, of Bowdon, Altrincham, Cheshire, left E1,376.277 net. Annette Gilmour Hodd, of Methersgate, Sutton, Suffolk, left £1,200,606 net. LI,240.000 net.
Dorothy Seward Nicholson
Sheppard, of West Byfleet, Surrey.
left El,240.428 net.
She left E500 each to the National
Trust, British Rad Cross Society, Girl
Guides Association, Royal UK
Benefloral Association and British
Heart Foundation.

Dorothy Forbes Beeby-Thomp-son, of Sunningdale, Berkshire, left El.499,288 net. David Marshall Tildsley, of Great Barton. Bury St Edmunds, Suf-folk, left £1.347,131 net.

Weekend birthdays

ا هُكذا من الأصل

TODAY: The Rev Professor G.W. Anderson, FBA, theologian, 84; Mrs Cory Aquino, former President of the Philippines, 64; Sir Tom Arnold, MP, 50; Mr Raymond Baxter, writer and broadcaster, 75; Viscount Blakenham, 59; the Most Rev Dermot Clifford, Archbishop of Cashel and Emly, 58; Vice-Admiral Sir David Clutterbuck, S4: the Earl of Coventry, 63; Miss Emma Freud, broadcaster, 35; Sir Paul Girolami, former chairman, Glaxo Holdings, 71: Mr Brian Hayes, Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police, 57: Professor G.E.R. Lloyd, Master, Darwin College, Cambridge, 64; Sir James Mellon, diplomat, 68; Sir David Nicholas, former chairman and chief executive, ITN, 67; Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead, 64; Mr William O'Brien, MP. 68; Air Commodore A.A. Reed, former director, RAF Nursing Services, 67: Mr David Shattock, Chief Constable, Avon and Somerset, 61: Mr Tom Shebbeare, director, The Primer's Toyer and the Royal

BIRTHS: St Edmund Campion. Jesuit martyr, London, 1540; Rob-ert Boyle, chemist, Lissmore, Co

Waterford, 1627; Joseph Lagrange, mathematician, Turin, 1736; Rob-

ert Burns, poet, Alloway, 1759; Sir

Francis Burden, politician, 1770; William McGillivray, naturalist,

Old Aberdeen, 1796; John Arbuth-not Fisher, 1st Baron Fisher,

Admiral of the Fleet, Ceylon, 1841;

William Somerset Maugham, nov-elist and dramatist, Paris, 1874;

Virginia Woolf, novelist and critic, London, 1882; Wilbelm Furt-

wängler, conductor, Berlin, 1886; Witold Lutoslawski, composer,

DEATHS: Robert Burton, author

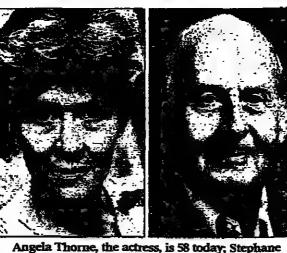
of Anatomy of Melancholy, Oxford, 1640; William Shield, com-

poser, London, 1829; Dorothy

Wordsworth, writer, Cocker-mouth, Cumbria, 1855; Frederic

Leighton, Lord Leighton, President of the Royal Academy 1878-96, Kensington. 1896; Ouida (pseud-onym of Louise de la Ramée),

Warsew, 1913.



Grappelli, the violinist, is 89 tomorrow

Mr Timothy Clifford, director, National Galleries of Scotland, 51: Mrs Margaret Daly, former MEP, 59; Mr Martin Dunn, former Editor, Today, 42; Mr Christopher Hampton, play-wright, 51: Mr Romie Hilton, entertainer, 71: Mr Kim Hughes. Constable, Avon and Sonserset, 61:
Mr Tom Shebbeare, director, The
Prince's Trust and the Royal
Jubilee Trusts, 74: Professor
Edward Ullendorff, FBA, former
Professor of Ethiopian Studies, 77:
Admiral Sir Peter White, 78.

TOMORROW: Mr Ronald Allison, author and broadcaster, 65;
Admiral Sir Desmond Cassidi, 72;
Master of the Court of Protection,

Anniversaries

novelist, Viaregglo, Italy, 1908. King Edward III acceded to the

The London Chamber of Com-

merce met for the first time 1882.

The League of Nations, forerunner

BIRTHS: Claude Helvetius, philosopher, Paris, 1715; George Sackville Germain, Lord George Sackville, 1st Viscount Sackville,

soldier and politician, 1716; Alexan-

somer and politician. 1716; Alexander Carlyle, Moderator of the General Assembly 1770, Prestonpans, 1722; Benjamin Robert Haydon, painter (Waiting for The Times), Plymouth, 1786; Douglas MacArthur, American general, Little Rock, Arkansas, 1880; Edward Sapir, anthropologist, Germany, 1884; Sean MacBride, Irish statesman. Nobel Peace

Irish statesman, Nobel Peace laureate 1974, Dublin, 1904; John

Carmel Heeman, Cardinal Arch-bishop of Westminster 1963-75.

of the UN was founded, 1919.

throne, 1327.

67; Mr William McLennan, for mer chief executive, Central Statistical Office, 55: Mr Akio Morita, KBE, founder and honorary chairman, Sony Corporation, 76; Mr Paul Newman, actor, 72; Dr Paul Nurse, director-general Imperial Caprer Research Fund 48; Mr Christopher Price, former Director, Leeds Metropolitan University, 65: Mr A.N. Solomons, chairman, Singer and Friedlander, 67; Sir Charles Tidbury, former chairman, Whitbread and Company, 71; Mr M.R. Turner, publisher, 68; Mr Nigel Wahmsley, chairman, Carlton Television, 55.

DEATHS: Edward Jenner, discov

erer of vaccination, Berkeley, Gloucestershire, 1824: Theodore

Géricault, painter, Paris, 1824; Francis Jeffrey, Baron Jeffrey, judge and literary critic, Edin-burgh, 1850; Gérard de Nerval,

poet, Paris, 1855; Charles George Gordon, general, killed at Khar-toum, 1885; Nicholaus Otto, plo-

neer of the internal combustion

engine. Cologne. 1891; Arthur Cayley, mathematician, Cam-bridge. 1895; Nikolai Vavikov,

geneticist, Saratov labour camp, Siberia, 1943; Edward G. Robin-

son, actor, California, 1973; James Cameron, journalist, London,

Today is Australia Day, commen-

orating the landing by Captain Arthur Phillip, 1788.

Hong Kong was proclaimed a British sovereign territory, 1841. The largest diamond in the world,

the Cullinan diamond, was mined at Pretoria, South Africa, 1905.

India became a republic within the

and their guests.

Lieutenant-Colonel M. "Nic" Nicol

Supper

A Burns Night supper was held last night at the Caledonisti Club, London. Mr Andrew Neil pro-posed the toast to "The immortal Memory of Robert Burns" and Sir Geoffrey Johnstin Smith, MP, proposed the toast to "The Lass-ies". Baroness Strange also spoke.

Appointment .

Professor Roger Gill has been appointed to head the Leadership Trust's new Research Centre for Leadership Studies.

Dinners

Architects and Surveyora

Sir Sydney Chapman, MP, was the host at the annual dinner of the London region of the Architects and Surveyors Institute held last night at the House of Commons, in aid of the British Paralympic Association. Mr Kenneth G. Whittick, chairman of the region, presided. Mr Brian Schofield, General Secretary of the British Paralympic Association, Mr Christopher Holmes, British Para-lympic nine times gold medal winner, and Mr Michael Brace. director of the association, were the speakers. The President of the Institute, the Lord Mayor of Westminster the Chairman of the Construction Industry Board and the Director of Education of the Chartered Institute of Building were among the guests.

Lord Ashley of Stoke, CH

A dinner for past and present medical students of Enumanuel College, Cambridge, was held at the House of Lords on Friday, January 24, 1997, spousored by the Right Hou Lord Ashley of Stoke, CH. Professor Peter Richards, Mr E.E.J. Smith, Mr David Lowen (Chairman of the Emmanuel Society), and Professor J.E. Flowes Williams (Master of the College) spoke. Amonset those present spoke. Amongst those present were Officers of the Society and some 70 members of the College

Service dinner HAC

was the principal guest at the annual dinner of Signal Squadron, Honourable Artillery Company, held last night at Armoury House, Major R.S.T. Murphy, Squadron Commander, presided. Lieutenant C.V. Marment also spoke.

Calculation at Club

Forthcoming marriages

Flight Lientenant A.A. Aderys and Miss D. Berry

The engagement is announced between Adrian Aderyn, of Lochgair, Argyll, and Diane Berry, of South Wraxall, Wiltshire.

Mr. A.: Deodato . and Miss M. Medina Malo The engagement is announced between Alessandro, son of Carlo and Olga Deodato, of Rome, and Marta, daughter of Don Enrique Medina Fernandez and Dofa

Hortensia de Medina, of Madrid.

Mr. J. Gilbert and Miss J. Keith

The engagement is announced between Justin, youngest son of Mr and Mrs M. Gilbert, of Epson, Surrey, and Jennifer, daughter of Mr and Mrs D. Keith, of Ashtead,

Lieutenant Communder P.M. Howard, RN, and Miss R.L. Corkery

The engagement is announced between Peter, elder son of Mr and Mrs Bruce Howard, of Kilmelford, Argyll, and Rachel, youngest daughter of Dr and Mrs Patrick Corkery, of County Cork, Ireland.

Mr E.I. Lindgren and Miss L.F.K. Straden

The engagement is announced between Eric, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Douglas Lindgren, of Dimferinine, Fife, and Lucy, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Standen, of Alderley Edge,

The engagement is announced. from Western Australia, between Rory, eldest son of Mr and Mrs B.J. McAuley, of Stapleford, Cambridge, and Kim, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs R.

Gleeson, of Perth, Western

Mr A.A. Platt Clark and Schoritz M. Perez The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Clark, of Villeneuve de Mezin, Lot et Garonne, and Maria de las Nieves, youngest daughter of Don Jose Luis Perez Ruiz, Ambassador of Spain, and Doña Jean Bullemore de Perez Ruiz, of Madrid

and Miss S.A. Hope The engagement is announced between Justin, elder son of Mr and Mrs Peter Whitfield, of Headley, Hampshire, and Sarah, daughter of Dr and Mrs Robin Hope, of Bishop Sutton, Bristol.

Marriage Mr M.J. Wilson and Miss J.C. Conlan

Mr J.A.J. Whitfield

The marriage took place yes-serday, in Bath, between Martin James, son of Mrs Patricia Wilson and the late Mr Les Wilson, OBE, of Somerton, Somerset, and Jennifer Catharine, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs James Conlan, of East Hanningfield, Essex. The honeymoon will be spent in

Luncheons

Lord Mayor of West The Lord Mayor and Lady May-oress of Westminster were the hosts at a function held yesterday at City Hall. Institute of Agricultural

Lord Carter, President of the

Institute of Agricultural Manage-nest, presided at the annual fellows function held yesterday at the Royal Agricultural College.

Mr Michael Tanguy, Master of the Fruiterers' Company, presented medals and diplomas for the best exhibit of culinary and dessert apples at the 1996 Marden Fruit Show to Mr John Scott at a

Covert Carden, WC2: 11.15 3av Trof A

holders' Hall, after the St Paul's Day service. Howard Chapman Ltd won the award for the best exhibit of pears. Mr. R.W. Manners also spoke.

luncticon beld yesterday at Inn-

cademy of Experts Mr Michael Cohen, Chairman of

the Academy of Experts, was the host at a luncheon held yesterday at the Lanesborough Among those present were:
The High Commissioner for
New Zealand, Lord Howe
of Aberavon, CH, QC, Sir Donald Harrison, Mr Justice Colman, the President of the French Company of Experts, the Vice-President of the Law Society of England and Wales and the President of RIBA.

NITIA SURGEY'S CATHEORAL, Aberdeen: 8 HC: 10, 19 S Euch, Schubert in G. Hoby is the true light phophard. The Provise: 8.10 Hc: 10, 19 S Euch, Schubert in G. Hoby is the true light phophard. The Provise: 8.10 Hongie E Stanford in E (2.1) He Bowers are religing (Nayder, the Provise) ARMAGH CATHEORAL: 10 HC: 11 Choral M. Te Deum (freignd in F). O taste and see Yaughan Williampi; 3.15 Choral E. Hylton-Stewart in C. The Heavens are religing thaydn.

Stewart in the state of the sta Choral E. If ye love me (Tallis).

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 3 HC; 9.15
Choral M. Teach me O. Lord (Artwood), the Provos; 10.30 Euch. Missa Brevis (Falsetrins), Canon Gallice; 4 Choral E. Teach me O. Lord (Byrd); 6.30 Education, Sishop Garrard. BRECON CATHEDRAL: 9.11 Holy Euch. Missa l'Hora Passa (Viadana), Rey M. Batchelor: 3.30 E. Thomas Keiway in G. minor. The heavens declare the glory of God (Boyce).

BRISTINI CATHEDRAL: BRISTINI CATHEDRAL E. BRISTINI CATHEDR BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: 7.40 M; 8 HC: 10 Choral Euch, Miss brevis in C. Let the

BRISTOL CATHERRAL: 7-40 M. 8 HC: 10 Choral Euch. Missa brevis in C. Let where the Luch. Missa brevis in C. Let were controlled and the Luch Choral E. Purcellin C. minor Piolinson; 3.30 Choral E. Purcellin C. minor Piolinson; 3.30 Choral E. Purcellin Camon a Kedferth and Luch Cadellin Camon a Kedferth Candle Luch Cadellin Candle and Kedferth Candle Luch Cadellin Candle Cadellin C. Choral M. Benedickle F. Ashfield, Jubiliate Deo Thajher-Ball; 3.15 Choral E. Jesus College Service (Markiss), Seening Hymn (Sallour-Cardinen, Cooper, Candle Cardinen, Cooper, Candle Candle Candle Cardinen, Cooper, Candle Candle

a title provost.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC: [0
Euch, Leighton in D. Jesu duicis memoria
Wittonal, Canon J Newcome: 11.30 Choral
M. Te Deum in C (Haydin, in the beginning
and the heaverts are felling [Haydin, Canon 7

Dennis 3.30 Choral E, Pourth Service (Batten), Teach on O Lord (ADMONG); 6.30 ES, Canson I Dennis.

CHICHESTER CATHEDBAL: # NC. 10 M, British in C, Almighty and evertasting God (Dibbons), Rev S Griffiths; 11, E such, Messe solemeile (Langlais). Rev C Hester; 3.30 E, Leghton by G, Rejotoc in the Lord (Porcell). CHIEST CRIPECH CATHEDBAL.

Outond: 8 HC: 10 M & Sermon, Benedicse (Parcell in B flail, the Desn; 11, 15, 5 Euch, Mass (Stravinsky), Fairr Assier (Stravinsky), Canon Webster; 6 E & College Prayers, Wasson In E, And I saw a new heaven (Balnion). (Balmion). CAHEDRAL: 7.40 MF. S COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MF. S Communion: 10.30 Euch, Mass in E flat (Rhelabetgeri, Ray C Gregory: 3 German Lutherans; 3 Polish Uniterans; 5 E ff ye love me (Tallis). Collegium Regale (Howells), Like as the bart (Howells). as the nam (powers)
DIBHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, the Precentur:
10 M. the Short Service (Byrd), Teach me O
Lord (Byrd), Canon R Coppin; 11.15 HC,
Jackson in G, O taste and see, Canon D
Stown: 3.30 E, Collegium Regale (Wood),
And Paul came to the congregation
(Mendelssohn). (Mendelssohn).

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8,15 HC. the Precentor: 10.30 S Euch. Missa O quam gloriosum (Vittorial, Prevent us O Lord (Byrd), Rev D Green; 3,45 E, Naylor in A, Os justi (Bruckner). Green: 3.45 E. Naylor in A. Os justi (Brucheri.)
EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 8 Euch. Mass for five volces (Byrd). Rev C. Davidson: 11.15 M. To Deum (Yaughan Williams in C). Videntes stellam (Poulenck, Rev G. Davidson: 11.15 M. To Deum (Yaughan Williams in C). Videntes stellam (Poulenck, Rev G. Davidson: C. Double of D. Like as the hart (Howerlist 6.30 Evening, How dear are thy coulrests (Croich). Canon R. Parry.
GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Rev J. Glaric, 9.45 S. Euch. Messe solennelle (Langlais), in manus huss (Tailis), Rev Dr I Pisher: 11.15 M. Jubilate (Walton). Sing (oyfully (Byrd). Lord Bishop of Guildford. HELEFORD CATHEDRAL: R. HC: 10 Euch. Messa Brevis (Mozard: 11.30 M. Stanford in B. III. Creat and marvellous (Boycet: 3.30 E. Collegium Regale (Wood). And 1 saw a new heaven (Bainton), Rev A osborne.

EREESER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 M. 10.30 heaven (Balmion), Rev A Osborne. LEICESTER CATHEDRAL 8 HC: 10 M, 10.30 § Euch. Collegium Regale (Howells), Teach me O Lord (Antwood), Rev J Darrail: 4 Choral E. Stanford in B flat. O praise God (Whyre).

E. Stanford in B flat O praise God (Whyte).
LICHTIELD CATHEDRAI; 8. HC: 10.30 S.
EUCh. Missa Brevis (Faisanina), Lublisse from
Short Service (weekes), O Lord Increase my
slith (Loosemore), the Treasurer; 3.30 E.
Wood in E flat No. 2. And I saw a new heaven
(Hainton).

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL 7.45 L. L. 1230 HC: 9.30 S Epch, Darke in F. the Dean: 11.15 M, Ireland in F. Noel notwelst far. 5 Jackson; 7.45 E. Secand Service (Byrd). See see the world is incarraise (Globods, Canon R Cockrane. Cochrane.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & Likary:

8,12.15 HC. Ray M Tomilinson: 9 Parish
Duch, Rey M Tomilinson: 9 Parish
Duch, Rey M Tomilinson: 11 5 Eucli, Euroson
in F. Oreat and marrellous are thy works
(Soyes). The Canoe: 3.30 Chorat &
Chichester Service (Walton). The heavens are
teiling the glory of God Chaydn): 6.30 Parish
E 6.5, Mr V Stetle.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 MP; 9 HC: (0.30 S Buch, Missa Brevis (Walton), Canon J Atherton: 6.30 E, the Dean, NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 10.30 M, Jubliste (Stanford in 8 hal), The beavens are telling (Haydrik 6.30 S Each, Missa O magnuto mysterium (Victoria), Ave verum corpus (Byrd), MOPARAS mysterium (Victoria). Ave verum forpus (Byrol).

NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7,30 MP; 8 HC: 10,303 Euch, Missa sezd toni (Crocs). Quem vidistis (Poulend, the Dean; 3,30 E, Gloucasiar Service (Howelis), Balulalow (Warlock). Canon R Hanner: 6,30 Young People's Euch.

PATTANOROUGH CATHEDRAL! 8.11 HC: 9,30 M, Staniord in G: 10,30 Euch, Darke in E, Canon M Davies 3,30 E, Greene in C, The heavens are relling (Haydn).

RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch, Canon M Gianville-Smith: 9,30 Parish Euch, Sumsion in F, Awe Verum corpus (Byrol, Rev S Hill: 11,30 M, Te Deum (Stanford in A), Jubiline (Relly in E), The Windows (Lloyd); 12,30 Euch, Rev J Thoni; 3 Holy Baptism: 5,30 E, Third Service (Tomkins), Amiginy God the fountain of all wisdom (Tomkins), Rev D Riodes.

Hindus.

ROC185TEE CATHEDRALE 8 MC 9.45 M, Juhillan (Cardiner). O tasis and see (Vaughan Williams). O tasis and see the see of tasis and tasis and see that tasis and tasis. O tasis and tasis a

Davier) E. Sexond Service (Gibbons), Fraiss our Lord, all ye Gentlies. SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, 10 MP, 10:30 S Euch, Mess Solennelle (Langlais), Tarium Ergo (Durotté), Canon T Page 11.45 Test lay the Day; 4:30 Pertal E 2 Sermon, St Paul's Service (Howells), A Hymn to St Cestila (Howells), Rev Dr Williams, SOUTH/WARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch, Rev M Kirchen; 1 Chorni Euch, Missa Laudaie Dominam (Lastus), The Lord is my shepherd (Berkriey), Fach ma O Lord (Byrd), Rev M Kirchen; 3 Choral E. Second Services (Gibbons), Try word is a lantern (Purcell), Rev Rey Je. (Gibboria), Try word is a unitern (Parcell), Rev R Royle. TRUBO CATHEDRAL: a HC: 9 M; 10 S Buch, Stanford in C and F. Ave verign corpus (Mozard, the Carate; 6 E. Gioucester Service (Howelis), 0 (bout the central orb (Wood), the Dear.

Church services tomorrow

Dean.

WARFIELD CATHEDRAL 8 HC. the Propost 9.15 Parish C, Lead me Lord (Wesley). Canon G Nairo-Briggs: 11 Solemn Euch, Te Deam, Short Service (Byrd), God so loved the world (Stainer), the Propost 4 E, Noble in E minor, God so loved the world (Stainer). The Lord bless you and keep you (Rutter), the Bishop. Lord blem you and keep you (Rutter), the Bishop.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 S Buch, Missa brevis in C. Ave verum (Mozard, Very Rev R Lewis; 11.50 M. Ireisand in C. O Lorde, the maker of ai thing Doubert; 3 E. Dyson in F. There is an old belief (Parry), Rev G Farran.

WESTIMINSTER ASSUT: 2 HC: 10 M. Short Service (Byrd), Teach me O Lord (Byrd), Cenon D Gray; 11,15 Euch, Missa brevis (Guess), Uhi carlas (Durufle), Tantum ergo (Durufle), Rev B Fenton; 3 E. Purceill in Eminor, Die Himmet erzahlen Schutz), Rev Dr. J Part; 5.45 Recitat; 6.30 Evening, Rav R Beffard.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL! # HC: 10.30 M. Benddictus (Paurbourdons) (Moore), Jesus Christithe apple tree (Posten), the Dean: 11.30 S. Euch, Mass for three volocs (Byrd), Toucass duodecima (Mulfat); 3.30 E. Stanford in A. Rev C Stewart.

YORK MINSTER SRAS HC: 10 S Bach, Canterbury Service (Moore), Rev R Metcaffe; 11.30 M. Noble in II minors 4 E. Roochus in E. minor, The heavens are telling (Haydio), Rev G Galiey; 6.30 Service for Education Sunday, R. Ecv H Taylor.

ST ASAFE CAVIEDRAL Chyrd: 8 HC, 11 Choral M, And 1 sew a new heaven (Balmion), Rev R Coffilling 3.30 EP. 87 EDMUNDERHOUS CATHUDRAL: 8 HC. Cannon M Mingine; 10 S Euch, Oldroyd in D, Tantton ergo/Ubi carias (Davidle), Rev El Webbs 11.30 Choral C, Jackson in G, Ave, versum (Egar); 3.30 Choral E-8 Admission of Choristers, Call to remembrance (Parranti, Alfeluya (Purcell), Stanfort in B das, My beloved spain; (Hadley), ST CHEF CATNEDWAL, Billadwing E. No. 121: 130 Solemn M. Fr G Bradley; 3: Commission of new whool governors; 5 Noty Hour for housing and homelessness. DM: 1130 Solemn SE. Fr. C. Bradier, 3. Camplaidon of new school governous; S. Holy Hour for housing and homelessness. ST. MACHARS CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdens: 11 Morning, HC. Like 25 the hart (Howelds, Sing we mentify (Campbell), O taste and see (Vaughan Williams), Rev. R. France: 6 Evening, Rev. E FRANCE: ST. MART'S CATHEDRAL Behaver & Evening, Rev. E FRANCE: ST. MACHARS CATHEDRAL Behaver & Evening, Rev. E FRANCE: ST. MACHARS CATHEDRAL Behaver & Evening, Rev. E FRANCE: ST. MACHARS CATHEDRAL Behaver & S. H. C. & S. E. S. T. MACHARS CATHEDRAL Behaver & S. FRANCE: ST. MACHARS CATHEDRAL Lands of Brack Behaver & S. FRANCE: ST. MACHARS CATHEDRAL Lands of Brack Behaver & S. FRANCE: ST. MACHARS CATHEDRAL Lands of Brack Behaver & S. FRANCE: ST. MACHARS CATHEDRAL Lands of Brack Behaver & S. FRANCE: ST. MACHARS CATHEDRAL Lands of Brack Behaver & S. FRANCE: ST. MACHARS CATHEDRAL Lands of Brack Behaver & S. FRANCE: ST. MACHARS CATHEDRAL Lands of Brack Behaver & S. FRANCE: ST. MACHARS CATHEDRAL Lands of Brack Behaver & Brack B

Watherston.
LINE TIAN SCHNICE CHURCH, CHEST P.,
WY: 11 Sunday School.
LROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCHIAMD.

PARM STREET, WI: () 9,30, 12:0, 4.15, 4.15 LM: 11 HM. MA: 11 HM. ROLLY TRINGTY BROMPTON. ROOMDON TROOM, SW7: 9 ASB HC. Rev N Gumbei: 11 Morning, Rev E Miller: 4,7 Informal, Rev S Downham. THE ORATORY, Brompton Roled, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, 12.30, 4.30, 7; 3.50 V & 8, AMMODIAN APUNIONA CHURICE PROPER Gens, WE Name day of the Churick WESTETS CHAPEL, City Rood, EC2; 9.45 HC. 11 Morning, REV DY E Gibbins. Il Morning, Rev Dr R Glibbins, VLI TMINISTER CENTRAL BALL Diethicists, Swit World Lopings Day, L. President of the Methodist Conference, Rev N Collinson, 630 Rev Dr P Graves, ET ARME AND ET AGNES Conference, Gresham St. EC2: 11 Choose Euch, Rev RC 11 S Foch, Missa Brows (Darlow), The Recor. ST IAARES'S, Season Carlows, W.1 Elect. 10.30 S Butch, Rev A Meldrum; 6 Choral E. BI IAMES'S, Picasduly: 8.30 RC 11 S Each. R Bev Bishop R Holloway, S.45 EF. 5T JOHN'S, Strainfant EIS: 11 Family. Tocom in B minor (Gigori), Rev D Bethardi, A36 HC, Rev M Ofello 8T LIRES, Chibsen, SWS: 8 RC 10.30 BO' 6 #C, Wescone avest and mored Jesus (Juni). Rev L Mataboux: 6.30 E. Allelum; I besud a volce (Verchina), Rev L Matabous. 8T MARS'S, Regents Park Rd, Riwin-8 HC. 94-55 Funly C 11 S Butch Darlow in E O Almighty Goe Generoles in T Jones. ST MARSCARETS Westoninesse, SWI: 1/ S BECL, Missa bveris Lincel Justice in: E O (Excepting), To Desum in C (Battleen, Almignity)

and everlasting God, Ray Dr P Bradshaw.

87 MARTIN EN-THIS-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC;
945 Such, the Vicar; 1; 30 Visitors, The Vicar;
245 Chinest, Ray G Lee S Charal E; 6.30
Reening, Rey C Herbert.

17 MARY AMENTS CRUENCH.

WE S 12-30 HC; 9:30 Parish Duch, the Vicar;
11.15 Choral M, Vert M Colmer; 6.30 E, Ray F
OME. ONE.

ST BLAKT'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9,10.7 LM; II HM. Alless brevis simile est regruin excitorum (Visusia). Canon J Halbarton; 6; Solemn E & B.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGOV, Prizarese Hill: 8 HC; 10,30 Parish Boch, Mess for a Sainty Law, Dacksool, Teach, me. O Lord (Byrol), Rev 8 Witner; 6 LWing with Faith.

ST MICHARISS, CORDING RCS: 11 Choral ST. MICHAELS, Cornhill, BCS: 11 Choral Service, Alcock in B flar, Alcolohy and overlasting God (Gibbons), Rev G Morgan. Orching AND FT AGNES (Definered)
Corching S. EC2: 11 Chorel Ench, Ew T
Brack? Jezz Vespers, Rev F Schmiege.

FT BATHERILIDAGE HIS GREAT, Smithleid, EC1: 9 HC 11 M, Short Service
(Gibtons), O chap your hands (Gibbons), the
Rector, Gato E. Wanson in S. Llebe der
Rector, John E. Commission in A.
Ser, Lidding (Britten Co.), The Cond M. S.
FT BRIDGES, Heer Street, EC2: 11 Chorel M. Ser D
Market Daniel B. Britan, The Twelve
(Walson), Canon J Cones.

FT COLUMBEAS CHURISH OF SCHMINS)
RC 6.30 Rev Dr. A Sevent.

FT COLUMBEAS CHURISH OF SCHMINS OF SCHMING.

FT GEORGES, Hansoner Square, WI, S. D
RC 11 S Food, Missis Brevis

GRAPEL ROYAL SE Suppose Court Palace

FT GEORGES, Hansoner Square, WI, S. D
RC 11 S Food, Missis Brevis

GRAPEL ROYAL SE Suppose Court Palace

FT GEORGES, Hansoner Square, WI, S. D
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RC 11 S Food, Missis Brevis

GRAPEL ROYAL SE Suppose Court Palace

FT GEORGES, Hansoner Square, WI, S. D
RC 11 S Food, Missis Brevis

GRAPEL ROYAL OF ST FETTER A COURT OF STREET, A COURT OF Canon M Mount.

Chapel Royal. Bampson Cauri Palace
3.0 Hc (1662): 11 M. Sumsion in G. to the
star-led chiefs. (Cantich: 3.30 E. Cullesjann
Regale (Wood). The Shephard's farewell
(Berlinz). OUTEN'S CHAPEL OF THE EAVOY, WC2: 11 M., To Dearn (Stanford In C). The Spirit of the Lord (Elgar), the Chaptain. CRAYS INN CHAPPL, 8 South Sq. WClic. 11.14 Devine broke.

12.11.15 HC. Onthe in R. The Creed facebocke, And I saw a new heaven Balannoi, Rev M. Langford.

GRARDS CHAPEL wellington Barracis, SW1: 1) M. Teach me o Lord (Astwood), Thy word is a lantem (Purcell, Bard of the Doldmann Guard, Rev T Cole. II HC.

12. HOTAL NAVAL COULEGE CHAPEL.

Greenwich, Selte II S Euch (BCP). Sumsing in R. Sent cervor (Iwiestrian), Rev C Presch.

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TICKETS

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A wise man makes a point of rising early to seek the Lord, his Maker, he prays to the Most High, asking pardon for his sins. Ecclesiasticus 39:7 BIRTHS

and Sarah, on Tuesday 17th December 1996, a son, Hugh John Barber, a brother for Sibyl Mimosa. BRICKMAN - On January 16th at The Portland Hospital, to Louisette (née Stodel) and Nicholes, an adorable son,

1997, to Susan and Terry, a beautiful daughter, Amber Rose, a sister for Daniel CAMERON - On January 16th 1997, to Maggie (nee Car) and James, a son, Oliver Bremmer Ian, a brother for Replant Ian, a brother for

Denjamin.
COLLIMS - To Sarah and Micky,
the blessing of a beautiful
son, Joseph William, their
first child born on 24th
Japunry at 12.18 pm. With
love we welcome this
wonderful new life. CURTIS - On January 21st at The Portland Hospital, to Caroline (nee Farrant) and Simon, a son, Humphrey David Whitetoord. GRAMAM - On January 20th at

Nicola (pée Randall) and Clive, a son, Harry James. GRUM - On 23rd January at Queen Mary's, Rochampton, to Juliet (see Lindsay) and Toblas, a son, a brother for HENCKLEY - On 19th Januar

77, to Alison (née <u>ards)</u> and Phú, a son REPATRICK - On January 20th at The Portland Bospital, to Cardyn (née Charliton) and James, a son (Alasdal: James Finn), a brother for isla. LENNOX-SOYD On Sunday january 19th, to Tamein (non Hickons) and Teddy, 2

MULLER-WENDE - On 23rd con Maximus Procests.

PARDOVITCH - On January
21st at The Portland
Hospital to Caren (née Van
Leeuwen) and Ronald, a son,
Sacha Wiedhnix.

PEERS - On 20th January, to Helen (née Spice) and Alex, a son, Benjamin Charles Literal. REEVES - On 9th January 1997, to Helen and Tom, of Beaminster, Dorset, a daughter, Olivia Jane, a sister to Lucinda.

SCHOFFELD - On January 17th at The Portland Rospital, to Debomh (nee Chapman) and Richolas, a third beautiful daughter, Venetla Gance. A sister for Olivia and Rosa. SPARLING - On January 6th at The Portland Hospital, Alasdair - B beautiful brother for Amelia and

Aldan, courtesy of Mun and

TAINS - On 10th January, to Martin and Sarah (non Moyalhan), a son, Alphanus George Wesley, a brother for Isobel and Auton. TROPLETT - On January 14th at The Chelses and Westminster Hospital, to later and Poul (her Bland), a son, Daniel Frederick William, weighing 77bs.

TYE - On January 21st 1997, to Tanya Sillem-Tye and Roderick, a son, John Laurie. WALSH - On 20th January at The Portland Hospital, to Emma (nos Belmoute) and Andrew, a daughter, Flora WOODHOUSE - On 17th January 1997, to Jan and Clare (new Withycombe), a son, Alexander Janes.

MARRIAGES

CLEGG:CAMERON - OR CLEGG:CAMERON On Saturday 11th January at St Andrew's Church, West Linton, Peeblechire, of His Hunort Judge Fillip Clags in Miss Fama Cameron.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

january 1947 at St Mary's. Redford, Eastl to Jean Now at Uckfield, TN22 15%. Congratulations and love from Lesley, John and Anne. Stephande and Amy.

DEATHS

AMDERSON - Lovedy Frances, formerly of Buchlebury, Berkshire, much loved mint of Lovedy Coynish, Henry, Fatrick and Michael Moule and Delia Anderson-Clawson, died peacefully on 22nd january 1997 speed 57. Quiet funeral at Yeovil Crematorium on Taesday 4th February at 2:30 pm. Thanksgiving Service at St. Mary's Chinch, Bucklebury, on Thursday 27th February at 2 pm. No Govern, pieuse, but doubties in NIETC 266 Ff. Moule, Ryalls Geound, Yenninster, Sherborne, DT9 6LL, tet (01935) 872447.

BARRER - (Née Daldy).
Psacefully on 22nd January,
1997 at The Garden House
Nursing Home, Thrupaton,
Nahry Ethel, aged 88 years,
widow of Edwin Barker.
Funeral Service will be held
at Peterbarough
Committee on Newhood,
Sth February at 2 pm.
Further enquiries to
Caussons Fameral Directors,
tek (01832) 272269.

CAUDWELL - Raymond of North Cores, Lincolnahire, died pencefully on lanuary 22nd 1997, aged 83 years. Beloved inther of Zosemany and Jill and a dear grandfather. Service at 5t Mary's Church, Marshehayel, Lincolnahire, on Wednesday January 29th at 3.30 pm. Family Rowers only please but, if desired, a donation may be sent to Lindsey Blind Society, "Ramajate Home", Pleasant Fires, Lough, Lincolnahire, Lincolnahire, Lincolnahire, and Society, "Ramajate Home", Pleasant Fires, Lough, Lincolnahire, Lincolnahire, and Lough, Lincolnahire, and Lough, Lincolnahire, Lincolnahire, and Lincolnahire, Lincolnahir

CREPPS - Matthew Anthony Leonard Cripps CRE INSO TD CC died peacefully at home on Weeknesday 22nd January 1997. Formula Service to be held at \$t John the Evangalist Church, Felech, on Thursday 30th January at 11am. All enquiries to Tomalin & Son, (01491) 573370.

DE SOUZA - Ivo Seymour O.D.
O.H. died perestratly in the
sleep on january 19th 1997
at home. Funcat to be held
on january 27th 1997 at St.
Clement Danes Church, The
Strand at 2.15 pm. No
flowers please. Donations to
be collected for Dialysis
Machine. DOCTOR - Aprilmy Stella died

peacefully January 17th.
Funeral American
Crematurism 31st January
at 1030 am. FRITH - Peter William Amous need 52 elder son of the late Major General and Mrs CEA. Firth, died in Oatsock Hospital, Salisbury, on Thursday 23rd January, following a stroke Funeral Service 12 noon Saturday 1st February at St Peter's Church, Codford, near Wanningree. FOWLER - Lealie Tom of

GWIEK - Lessie Tom of Highcliffe, originally Harpendea, peocefully on January 23rd. Loving and much level instead, Luther and grandfather. Paneral private. garrane.

GAFREY - Seamme syndemly on 16th January 1997 aged 47, formerly of The Hedgehog and Stump, Twickwaham. Sodly missed by his two sons Shane and Tony, wife 510hhan, his mother and all his tansity. He will be missed by all that knew him. Enquiries to 10181) \$77-1754.

Tei: (01242) 525383.

MAIHAMAY - David died 22nd jamuary peacefully at home after a long times. Funeral Service West Chapel, Putney Vale Crematorium, West London, Fidey 31st jamuary at 3.15 pm. Family flowers only. Dometions to Mrs 5.

Hathaway c/o Cheleva Funeral Directors, 260s Fulham Rond, Cheleva Swa 525.

Hill Directors, 260s Fulham Rond, Cheleva 5721.

HINTON - Nicholas John

Fanham Educt. Cheshers SWIO 9EL.

HINTON - Nicholas John suddenly on January 20th 1997, 3gad 54, whilst working in Croatia for the laternational Crisis Group. Fungal at Edington Priory Church, Edington Priory Church, Edington, near Westhury, Wilts. on Wednesday, 29th January at moon. Family flowers only a moon. Family flowers only donations to Salisbury Girls Choir cho Mr Richard Seal. Salisbury Cathedral School. The Classe, Salisbury, Wilts. Memorial Service to be held in Landon H a Later days. 19th. Femeral Service at St Augustines Church, Broxbourne on Monday February 2nd part 12 moon. However or donations for The Gardeners Benevolent Society, clo W. Austin & Sous (Stevenage) Ltd., 9/11 Leckmace Rued. Stevenage, Hearts, SG1 SEL. bek (01438) 316623.

JAMES - Griff (Theatre Production Memogary stee a Production Memogary and point Charloton. Cremation, femily only, followed by Service of Church, Clapton on the Hill Charloton. Cremation. The Mills on the Charloton. Cremation. Crematics. Crematics.

tel: (01438) 316623.

JAMES - Griff (Theatre Production Manager) after a long serious Elmees home with courses, humour and dignity, Griff died at Barts on 14th January. Committee at Golders Green on Friday 31st January at 12.45 pm. Family flowers and donations if desired to Cancer Research.

LEEMING - "Dopsy" (née Winkfield) peacefully on 23rd January 1997, devoted wife of the late Derek "Bunny", very much leved mother and grandmother.

MacCURRACH - Major Robert
Peter, late 13th Duke of
Connaugh's Own Lancers,
peacefully on 18th January
1997, formenty of Ingunour
Fatin, Rounton-on-the-Water,
aged 81 years. Loving
husband of the late Diana
and such loved father of
Robert, Martin and
Charlotta Cremation family
only, followed by Service of
Thenkingtwing at 81 james'
Church, Clapton on the Hill
at 230 pm on Teenday 11th
February 1997. Family
flowers only. Donations if
desired to 81 james' Church,
Clapton on the Hill. These
may be sent to W.J. Weight,
Funeral Directors,
Lansdowns, Rounton on the
Water, Glos.

January, Famela agel 88, at The Royal Victoria Hospital, Follostopa. Followinne.
SWEFT - Professor Don, died suddenly and peacefully on January 20th. Greatly loved husband of Paid, father of Anira, Susan and Michael, grandfather, brother, teacher, startuman and teacher, sportsman and friend Funeral Wednesday January 20th 2 pm St Lubr's Church, Stoke Hammond, Bucks., followed by cremation. Enquiries to (0171) 720-0308. (0171) 720-0306.

TASKER - On 22ad lannary 1997, Geoffrey John Humphing, aged 75 years of Great Browghton, North Indiana, and dear companion of Caroline and much loved and loving stepfather of Janice, Claire, Brian and Caroline. Donations in his memory, if desired, or the Triality School of John Whitgift, Croydon, Survey.

MEAD - On lanuary 22nd
1997, Many loving reliet of
Rapert, loving mother of
Supert, loving mother of
Jody and Spencer and two
dear children-in-law and
also of her five
strandshildren. Foneral
Service at North Devon
Createrium Ramstaple on
Wednesday jamary 29th at
12 noon. Donations if
desired by Many 29th at
12 noon. Donations if
desired by Marth Devon
Hospice or Children's
Hospice or Children's
Hospice South West of
Trayed a Lackest, has
House, Park Avenue,
Richerod.

Bideford.

MUMED - Dorsen died very peacefully on 21st January 1997 at Monte College, has at Fourt Hama, Farini to this place on 12th February, service 2 pm at 5t George's Church, Westcombe Park, Sci3, committed 3.15 pm at Hithum Crematerius. No. Clima Cremitorias for Climars by request. Durations to Salvation Army ale Prancis Chappell, 39 Footer Leville, Sello, SEIO.

STANSOUTH - Elimbeth as
22nd January, 1997. Beloved
with of Charies and bank
loved mother and
Sanda the Future at
2.30 pm on Monday 3rd
February. Family flowers
only, but donations if
Assume to S. Enry Court.

West Susuer RH19-42A.

WAINON - Othh (Sabbie) on January 22hd, peacefully after Husen boxte with gent gate. Beloved wife of Dick, loving mother of Nick and Tim and a dear grandmother. Private cremation, followed by Thunkogiving at Aldeburgh Parish Church, 12 noon, Thunkogiving at Aldeburgh Hower, Western House Hay Rhabeth agad 56 years of Botesdale, Suffolk Loved wife of Raymond, dan mother of Jalian, Funeral Service at Rickinghall Church on Priday 31st January at 10.30. am, followed by cremation. Fundy flowers unly phense, but donations if desired for St Kicholms Hospice ald Rackhams Puneral Service. Stanley Road, Diss, Nariolk. Stanley Road, Diss, Markill.

WHITE On Jimmey 22hd.

Margaret. Weight after
bravely undering a long
illness. Beloved wife of fligal
and mother of Eichael.
Christopher and Paul and
geindmother of Clains, Sanh
and Themse, Fruncus Service
to be held at the City of
Rowelch (Earlings)
Crematorium, Rowelch, on
january 20th at 230 yea.
Pattly Rowers only please
but donations, if declare, for
the NSPCC may be sent clo
Petar Taylor. Frincensi
Services, 35 Unchank Road,
Novelch, NE2 27E.

Sussex County Hospital, Brighton.
Withit - Captain Pour Joseph.
CRE DSC peacefully on 21st Journey, Funeral Survice, at St. Petrox. Church, Destacouth, at 12 noos on Holey 31st Journey, Family flowers. only pieuse. Donations. to 5t Petrox. Church do Petrings Funeral Services, Southford Road, Dartmouth, Deron.

PRIVATE BEATTE: Peter Christopher with desirest love tome and always. JOHES Morag.
Palseobotanist, aged 27
years, tragically on the 1980
Expedition to Mali. Always
numerobored with love. BIRTHDAYS

IN MEMORIAM -

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OBITUARIES

MARY BANCROFT

Mary Bancroft, American spy and writer, died on January 10 aged 93. She was born on October 29, 1903.

ntil the Second World War, Mary Bancroft's life followed the normal conventions for a young American woman of her class and age. Then, after she had opted to remain in Zurich with her second husband, her adventures began to read like the stuff of spy thrillers. As mistress of Allen Dulle (later Director of the CIA), Bancroft did essential work for its forerunner, the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), gathering information on the German Resistance and on Yugoslav Partisans. Forty years later, she provided an entertaining account of the work done by the OSS in her memoirs, Autobiography of a Spy (1983).
Bancroft had always longed for the

chance of an exciting job. Born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, she was educated locally. Her father was a lawyer and journalist, and her Irish mother had died of an embolism when she was a few hours old. Her stepmother's stepfather, Clarence Barron, was easily the greatest influence upon her.

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Publisher of The Wall Street Journal and friend to President Calvin Coolidge, he advised Mary to go out and meet people from all walks of life - "even gamblers and crooks. Always study them and learn to differentiate clearly between the good and the bad."
This early habit of discrimination stood her in good stead in Switzerland. when she was called upon to decide which German contacts might be double agents.

An early stultifying marriage to a childhood friend, Sherwin Badger, from which she had two children ended in divorce in 1932. She married the second time, in 1935, to Jean Rufenacht, a Swiss banker. This was: an equally bad choice but one which did not interfere so much with Bancroft's private life, as her husband was often away, travelling on business. Living in Zurich in Rufenacht's absence, she wrote articles and became friends with Carl Jung and, after James Joyce's death in 1941, with his widow Nora.

Eager to do whatever she could for the Allied cause during the war, she was introduced to Allen Dulles at the Baur au Lac hotel in December 1942. Dulles was described as the new special assistant to the 'American minister: "My instantaneous impression was that he would never be anybody's assistant — at least not for



long," she later wrote of him. In fact, Dulles was scouting among Americans in Switzerland to see who would be suitable to work for the OSS that was to be established in Berne. On his second meeting with Bancroft he blurted out: "It should work out very well. We can let the work cover the romance - and the romance cover the work."

As Dulles predicted, Bancroft be-came his hardest-working, lowest-paid assistant - and his mistress. Her task was to analyse the German press, and to make contacts with those scores of refugees and spies pouring into Switzerland who seemed sympathetic to the Allied cause.

Her most important work was done with Hans Bernd Gisevius, who was a top official in the Abwehr - the intelligence department of the OKW

(Wehrmacht High Command). Gisevius knew many of the generals and other highly-placed civilians in Germany who were to participate in the failed assassination attempt of July 20, 1944. While Bancroft and her English friend Elizabeth Scott-Montagu translated Gisevius's secretly-writ-

ten manuscript on the Nazi cover-up surrounding the Reichstag fire, Bancroft questioned him about the German Resistance. Her favourable reports of the man to Dulles did much to establish the credibility of the Resistance movement with Anglo-Americans.

Through Bancroft's Yugoslav contacts, Dulles also learnt that the man to deal with in the country was Josip Broz, known to his followers as Tito, and not General Mihajlović.

Dulles was a man of fixed routines. Every week Bancroft visited him in Berne, dined with him, discussed her weekly report, and then helped him to prepare the nightly phone call which he made to the United States. Because these were presumably being listened to by the Germans, no hard intelligence gathered by American agents was included in the reports. Still, in America, they were awaited with excitement. When all the business was out of the way Dulles and Bancroft would engage in what she described as "a bit of a dalliance".

With Bancroft's husband Jean away travelling and Dulles's wife Clover in America, they tried to be discreet. But Dulles did occasionally take terrible risks. Once he burst into Bancroft's apartment in Zurich shortly after the maid had left to go shopping, and told her: "Quick. I've got a very tricky meeting coming up. I want to clear my head." Dusting himself down moments later he said: "Thanks. That's just what I needed," and rushed off to his meeting.

Other women might have grown thred of being used as a head-clearing device, but Bancroft enjoyed the uncertainties of her profession until the end of the war. Exhausted, she then decided not to take up Dulles's request that she accompany him to Germany to set up the OSS there. She left the service and took her reward in the form of an invitation to watch the Nuremberg trials, to which Gisevius had been called as a witness.

Her descriptions of the trials were a highpoint of her memoirs: "When I entered the Nuremberg courtroom, von Ribbentrop, his face the colour of Camembert cheese, was on the stand." she wrote. "He seemed to have no idea why he found himself in his present numiliating position. In his opinion he had never done anything wrong. Beside Goering sat Rudolf Hess, staring catatonically into space. He looked utterly demented like a character out of The Cahinet of Dr Caligari.

After the war, and now divorced from her second husband, she remained in Zurich for seven years, and worked on multilingual films and commentary for documentaries. Returning to the US in 1952 she wrote two novels and her memoirs. She remained friends with Dulles and his wife until their deaths, and her circle expanded to include Woody Allen and Henry Lucz, the founder of Time.

The son of her first marriage predeceased her. She is survived by her daughter Mary-Jane, who married Horace Taft, the son of Senator Robert

CHARLES CRAIG

Charles Craig, tenor, died on January 23 aged 77. He was born in London on December 3, 1919.

CHARLES CRAIG was one of the few British lyric-dramatic tenors to emerge in the postwar years. Although he began his career in lighter roles, he became most noted for his reading of Otello in Verdi's opera, which he sang with marked success both in Britain and abroad, conveying the power and the pathos of the strenuous part. He may not have been a particularly skilled actor, but he managed by the sincerity and commitment of his performance of this and other parts to convey their essence. Because his technique was soundly based and his voice therefore wore well, he was able to continue to

sing into his sixties. Craig was the youngest of 15 children. Although he was interested in singing from a young age, the need to earn a living from the age of 16 initially prevented him from pursuing it as a career. During the war, however, when he was in the Army, he was able to try out his voice at concerts and then joined the entertainments unit, singing arias all learnt by ear.

Once the war was over, he summoned up his courage to write to Covent Garden. Karl Rankl, then music director. and David Webster, administrator, auditioned him. They acknowledged his instinctive talent by taking him into the chorus with the promise of solo roles, though none of significance materialised.

in 1951. Sir Thomas Beecham auditioned him for The Rohemian Girl, which he was to conduct at Covent Garden. Beecham played the piano himself and at one point shouted at the bewildered tenor: "You'll have to leave here. We will have to sponsor your training and get the money somewhere."

Good as his word, Beecham financed Craig's ruition with Dino Borgioli and paid him a salary at the same time so that he could leave the chorus. A concert with Reecham conducting Craig in Liszt's Psalm 13 and a recording with the Mass of Life in 1952, and Craig was on his way.

A contract with the Carl Rosa company followed. With them, Craig learnt his basic repertory singing a well-re-membered Des Grieux (in Puccini's Manon Lescaut) and the title role in the first British performances of Berlioz's opera Benvenuto Cellini. He was also a distinguished Rodollo (La Bohème) for the Carl Rosa, a part he first performed in 1953.

Sadler's Wells Opera then employed him - as Samson. Luigi (Il Tabarro). Cavaradossi and Andrea Chenier. showing the weight of his voice. In 1959, he appeared as the Prince in the first British performances of Dvorak's Rusalka, with Joan Ham-mond in the title role. The same year he at last fulfilled his ambition — to sing a major part in the Royal Opera House. It was as Pinkerton to Sena Jurinac's Butterfly, He was immediately hailed for his Italianate style. Turiddu followed, in the premiere of

same conductor of Delius's A Radames, Canio, Calafamong other roles. Meanwhile he sang Siegmund in Scottish Opera's first Ring in 1906.

Craig was soon in regular demand abroad, particularly in Berlin, where his Otello was most admired, and the United States. He was not always successful Early in 1972, the audience in Parma, a notoriously difficult house, soundly booed his Otello and he retired after the first act. But he did eventually sing the part at La Scala and then, towards the end of his career, at Covent Garden and at the English National Opera, in Jonathan Miller's production. The latter was recorded in 1983 and is a fair memento of Craig's achievement. He also leaves some earlier discs which show his voice in its prime, among them extracts from Butterfly with Marie Collier, often his

stage partner, His tenor was firm, resonant, with baritonal tints. He revealed a genuine legato in his singing and a fair ability to colour his tone.

His wife, son and daughter



Charles Craig as Samson and Patricia Johnson as Delilah in Saint-Saens' opera at Sadier's Wells, 1957

THE VEN RENNIE SIMPSON

The Ven Rennie Archdeacon of Macelesfield, 1978-85, died on January 9 aged 76. He was born on January 13, 1920.

ALTHOUGH a Northerner by origin, Rennie Simpson spent probably the happiest years of his ministry as Precentor of Westminster Abbey between 1963 and 1974. After being seriously ill, he left London in 1974 to accept a residentiary canonty at Chester, where he soon became Vice-Dean.

He found life, however, in a provincial cathedral constricting after all the variety of activities at Westminster, and it was with some relief that in

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1978 he took up the offer made Chester, Victor Whitsey, to become Archdeacon of Macdesired, combining his duties with a country parish. He remained archdeacon for seven years before retiring at the age of 65 to live in the North Yorkshire cathedral city of Rinon. From the start, Rennie

Simpson's had been a slightly. unorthodox ecclesiastical career. He was one of the very few Church of England dignitaries of his generation to be a non-graduate (though after 1970 he was able to wear a Cambridge hood, having been awarded a Lambeth MA by Michael Ramsey). His education had been at Blackburn Technical College and he



trained for the ministry at Kelham. Ordained in 1945, he served his title in the mining town of South Elmshall just south of Pontefract, though his next move - to become Precentor of Blackburn Cathedral determine his future. After three years at Black-

burn he was in 1952 appointed

to the college of minor canons at St Paul's Cathedral; he spent six years there, combining his duties at the cathedral with being a deputy Priest-in-Ordinary to the Queen, which meant he was available to sing services at the Chapel Royal. At St Paul's his obvious spirituality made a deep impres-sion — not least on the Dean, W. R. Matthews, under whom he served fin his retirement Matthews asked Simpson to become his own spiritual

St Paul's was not the happiest of Chapters at the time but, from the perspective of a still

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(he had a lovely singing voice) relatively young man, who came a familiar figure at was the one that was to was busy also as chaplain to Stamford Bridge (he was an the Great Ormand Street Children's Hospital, Simpson made his own contribution to creating a friendlier atmo-

> in 1958 he was offered the opportunity to run a large parish of his own. John Keble Church, Mill Hill, had a vast, mixed population of more than 100,000 souls and, with a sizeable team of curates at the vicar's disposal, a tradition of producing future C of E leaders. If Simpson himself did not immediately become one of those, it was because, after no more than five years there, he received an invitation that he felt he could not refuse.

> The precentorship of Westminster Abbey does not in itself rate as a senior appointment - unlike in some other cathedrals, it does not carry a canonry along with it, and the occupier of the precentor's stall holds no seat on the Chapter (nor, for that matter, after a Privy Council judgment of the early 1950s, does he even enjoy a freehold). Yet Simpson, at the age of 43 and as a highly regarded suburban vicar, had no hesitation about accepting the offer made to him. The prospect of playing his part, along with the organist and master of the choristers, in producing the Abbey's music doubtless had something to with that; but so also did his swift recognition that it was just the sort of job that would yield him the chance of touching life at many different angles.

In his II years living in Little Cloister, Westminster, Simpson did exactly that. He beardent Chelsea supporter) played an active part in the life of the City of London (serving as chaplain to both the Society of Apothecaries and to the Company of Wax Chandlers. even writing an official grace for the latter); and was, above all, a model team player in the far-from-Barsetshire life that circulates around Dean's Yard and College Garden.

It fell to him, in particular, to assume responsibility for a large part of the arrangements for the marriage service of Princess Anne to Captain Mark Phillips in 1973 and, working in close harmony with both Eric Abbott and Edward Carpenter, he also more than maintained the high standards of the Abbey's liturgy and worship, In his later years at Westminster this was a notable achievement, since in the 1970s he became a victim of bowel cancer, his life being despaired of on more than one occasion.

Eventually, thanks to the healing ministry of Eric Abbott, he made a full recovery and was able to live an active life for another 20 years, only resigning as Chaplain to the Queen - a post to which he had been appointed in 1982 five years after his official retirement as Archdeacon of Macclesfield. He had been made a Lieutenant of the Victorian Order on giving up his post as a Priest-in-Ordinary to the Queen, when he moved to Chester, in 1974. He is survived by his wife Margaret, whom he married

in 1949, and by a son and a daughter.

WALLY WHYTON

Wally Whyton, skiffle singer and television and radio presenter, died of cancer on January 22 aged 67. He was born on September 23, 1929.

AS LEAD singer of the Vipers,

Wally Whyton enjoyed a modest degree of fame in the late 1950s, the short-lived era of that endearing DIY brand of folk music known as skiffle. But unlike many who sank out of sight when the brief hour of the guitar, tea-chest bass and washboard combo came to an end, he went on to careers as a puppeteer in the ITV children's programme Small Time and later as presenter of the popular BBC Radio 2 programme Country Club. As the hand behind the glove puppet Pussy Cat Willum, he achieved national celebrity of a kind he never knew purely as a skiffle performer.

Born in London, Wally Whyton went to St Martin's Art School and started his working life as a commercial artist. But jazz and folk music had always been a passion with him and in the 1950s he teamed up with Tommy Steele, Hank Marvin, Jet Harris and Bruce Welch to form the Vipers.

Skiffle was momentarily all the rage. With its simple instrumental line-up -- broom handle stuck in tea-chest, kazoo, spoons, washboard rasped with thimble and, of course, acoustic guitar - it was an inexpensive way of producing a rhythmic, semimusical noise, and for 18 months it held sway over the coffee har scene centred on Soho's 21s.

Lonnie Donegan, skiffle's exemplar, was always the Vipers' most dangerous rival and had immense success with Don't You Rock Me Daddy-O. which had actually been written by Whyton and was the group's first hit in 1957. They had brief notoriety when their version of Maggie May was banned by the BBC, and had two other chart entries with Cumberland Gan and Streamline Train.

By the end of the Fifties the skiffle craze had run out of steam, with Steele by that time carving out a solo career and Marvin and Harris founding the Shadows. Whyton's career was for the next few years in television, and his puppeteering slots on ITV's Small Time and Five O'Clock Club were mandatory teatime viewing for children. When Pussy Cat Willum was killed off in 1965 there was what amounted to nationwide protest, with lisping infant letters bombarding ITV studios. Whyton moved to the BBC to present Play School.

He continued to write songs: Leave Them a Flower was a Sixties protest against the loss of green belt land. But his career was thereafter principally as a radio presenter, first from 1967 through Radio 1's Country Meets Folk and then, for twenty years from 1974, with Radio 2's Country Club. In the last he exercised an influence he had never had as a performer through his enthusiasm for Country music, and the programme had a large following.

He is survived by his wife Mary, a son and two daughters.

BOGUS TELEGRAM

TO BISHOP

Curate fined for a "practical joke" (From Our Correspondent) Liverpool, Jan 24

There was a sequel at Liverpool Police Court today to a practical joke played by an Isle of Man clergyman in sending a hogus telegram to the Bishop of Sudor and Man, Dr James Denton Thompson, who was thereby induced to make a fruitless journey to Liverpool on the reading of the Church Enabling Bill in the Legislative Council of the Indiana

The Rev Walter James Karran, curate of St Matthew's, Douglas, pleaded "Guilty" 10 aiding and abetting Alice Mary Winstone. nt manageress of a London cale, to otter a forged telegram purporting to be written by the Right Hon Stanley Baldwin, Prime Minister, to Denton Thompson, Lord Bishop of Sodor and Man, on December 3."

He was fined £10 and ordered to pay 25 eas costs. Mr Howard Roberts, for the Director of Public Prosecutions, said that Mr Karran was travelling on the steamer Mona from Douglas to Liverpool on December 3 with a lady acquaintance, Miss Winstone. He conceived the idea of sending a telegram to the

ON THIS DAY

January 25, 1924 **美国新疆**

A curate's practical joke which involved sending a telegram to the Bishop of Sodor and Man asking him to meet the Prime Minister. Stanley Baldwin, ended with the curate in court.

Bishop purporting to come from Mr Stanley Baldwin, the Prime Minister, who was in Liverpool that day. He drafted a telegram as

"Denton Thompson, Bishop's Court, Kirk Michael, Isle of Man. Meet me Adelphi 3 tomorrow affernoon, most important -

He handed the paper to Miss Winstone, who on arrival at Liverpool made a copy of it and sent it to the telegraph office. The result was that the Bishop postponed an important engagement and proceeded to Liverpool. He learned at the Adelphi Hotel that the telegram

was unauthorised and that Mr Baldwin had left Liverpool. A fortnight later the defendant went to the Chief Constable of the Isle of Man and made a statement to the effect that during the passage he said to the lady: "Let's have a joke on somebody. Let's send the Bishop a telegram." She replied: "You are always doing something foolish," or words to that effect.

Mr R.K. Chappell, defending, said that during the voyage the defendant was looking after Miss Winstone, who had been put in his charge by a friend. She was threatened with sickness, and he joked in order to distract her

The defendant's action was a practical joke. it had been rumoured in the island that the merits of the Bishop were likely to be rewarded with a diocese in England, and it was also rumoured that the Bishop would regard such translation with equanimity. It occurred to Mr Karran that a message which might be taken to bear on the matter would be "an amusing leg-pull".

The magistrate, in imposing the fine, said that the explanation given as to why the Bishop might regard the telegram as genuine made the joke, if that was the proper name to be applied to it, a singularly offensive one. It would seem incredible to most people that a clergyman could do such a thing.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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the 15th day of leanury 1997
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30

NEWS

Prison staff 'aided breakout'

Officers at the maximum security Whitemoor Prison cut perimeter fences to help five IRA inmates and an armed robber in the 1994 breakout that led to a review of prison security, a top barrister claimed. Michael Mansfield, QC, demanded a new inquiry. Michael Howard, Home Secretary, demanded that he produce evidence to back up his claim...

Prince opposed to public cash for yacht

■ The Prince of Wales has complained to friends that he was not consulted about the decision to replace the Royal Yacht Britannia or the timing of the announcement. It is understood that he would have preferred to have seen the taxpayer spared the £60 million costs

Aircraft burnt

years to restore ...

was rejected ..

vincial town ...

Fallen Graf

Strike continues

Algerian terror

Vandals in Sunderland burnt a vintage aircraft that took two

Dockers in Liverpool threatened

to continue Britain's longest cur-

rent strike after their peace plan

The tide of terror sweeping Algeria

claimed yet more victims with

killings in the capital and a pro-

The father of Steffi Graf, the

world's best woman tennis player.

was sentenced to three years and

nine months' jail for tax

Hong Kong's next chief executive.

Tung Chee-hwa, has angered his

supporters by his latest call for

Curbs opposed

curbs on freedom ...

... Page li

..... Page 16

. Page 17

Milk-powder scare

Parents flooded a hotline after a popular brand of baby milk powder was linked to an outbreak of

Ailing star

The career of Jonah Lomu. the world's most famous rugby union player, may have been ended by a kidney disease Pages I, 60 Brussels confident

Brussels contradicted John Major's claim that the EU would be unlikely to proceed with a single currency in 1999 Page 2

Viscountess wins

A French viscountess won her battie to reclaim rare candelabra stolen from her home and offered for sale at Sotheby's

Labour's way

Youths would have to take up job. training or education offers or face cuts in benefit and single mothers would be encouraged to work under Labour reforms...... Page 4

Code for dancers stepping out of line

■ Bailroom dancing has become so competitive that a code of conduct has been drawn up to eliminate a fighting style on the floor, such as elbowing other contestants. Dancers who breach the code will receive a "yellow card"

XXA*TTUIRIE NOTTES* Keep well away from brussels and frankfurters Cadet size

Spanish Onion (Portillista hubrista) Pungently flavoured import, lately introduced to Britannia. Gets up noses and is enough to make strong men weep.

OPINION

The benefits bettle: Around 90 per cent of lone mothers claim that they would work if they could. It is hard for them to complain if they are offered a reasonable chance to do ... Page 27

Dirty dancing: The first step is the one that counts, recognising that ballroom dancing is no longer a ritual governed by etiquette.. Page 27

LETTERS

Labour reply to Tory retailers on minimum wage; 20th century cathedral building; cadet forces in schools Page 27

- AA INFORMATION

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: (With apologies to Alan Clark) I do not care if five batty hags do or do not "want me" as their "member". Tory candidate selection is pure sadism...... Page 26 Ben Mecintyre: Lurking be-

hind the industrial protests in France is a fear that the perks of the postwar welfare state are about to be eradicated in the EMU march Page 26

OBTUARIES Mary Bancroft, US spy: Charles Craig, tenor; Wally Whyton, singer and broad-

Sainsbury: The Sainsbury family fortune fell by more than £300 million after the. group warned the City of a

fall in profits...... Page 31

BISHES

Buses: Large bus companies could be facing a tougher regulatory regime...... Page 31 Rell: A £150 million-a-year deal has been struck to reverse the decline of rail

... Page 31 Markets: The FT-SE 100 index feli 52.7 points to close at 4218.8. Sterling fell from 95.8 to 95.3 after a fall from DM2.6685 to DM2.6502 but rose to \$1.6287 Page 34

Rugby union: Jonah Lomu's career is in doubt after a kidney disorder was diagnosed. He is to rest..... Page 60

capitalise after putting New Zealand in to but in the first Test in Auckland Page 60 Tennis: Pete Sampras, the

holder, reached the final of the Australian Open with a straight-sets win over Thom-

Intolerable traffic levels, car

crime: traffic wardens

Duncan is in superb form in Harold Pinter's The Homecoming Page 24

Ogdon tribute: Top pia-

Cricket: England tailed to nists pay tribute to the late John Ogdon, on what would have been his sixtleth birthday Page 24 Some like it very hot: Is

Marilyn Monroe the woman in a recently unearthed 1947 sex film? Richard Morrison studies the evidence...... Page 25

Dream paleces: The exotic architectural styles of US movie theatres.... Page 25

steals the show Page 8 Ghetto blaster: India's top .. Page 26 architect ...

Weekend

Food: Game Page 43

Gone west: The dream that died Pages 1,2



Family life: sibling rivalry among adultsPage 15 Travel: Greece; Caribbean; Cuba Pages 17-25

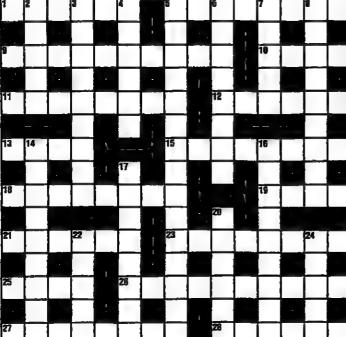
Trip to the top: Comedy star John Cleese Win a great watch



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	Pages 7-12
	Pages 13-21
TV guide.	Pages 23-46

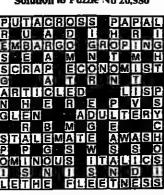
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,386

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London El 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be



- I Sudden onset of wind can make
- 5 The messenger's staff wrongly accused you, we hear (8). 9 Disputed area in Amazon region?
- 10 Exposed Red union's part in
- 11 Feverish air in shopping centre
- 12 Unfounded rumour article in heavy paper contained (6). 13 Meet in a bar (4).
- 15 Shrub to tend in river setting (8). 18 A boon to women of childbearing age (5-3).
- 19 Evidence it makes sense to place in hearing (4). 21 Mr Jones embracing daughter
- getting a blue (6).

 23 Make a liquid mixture using special muesli extremely fruity
- 25 Miss a festive occasion (4).
- 26 Monks more moderate than Dominicans and Carmelites? (10). 27 Shed with pipe going out to big
- 28 Poet said to be Frost, R. (6).
- Solution to Puzzle No 20,380



DOWN

- 2 Cut stated price on a share (5). 3 White flower covered by rising
- lake (9). 4 Hollywood bitch Scottish singer
- loved (6).
- 5 Ocean bed? (6,2.3,4). 6 Removed passage in legal docu-
- ment (8).
- 7 Head of choir, soon to become a priest (5).
- 8 Suffered from growth in lower end of throat (9).
- 14 Underwear sent to laundry? Change one's mind (9). 16 Mother of brainchild is in need
- 17 Divine performance of The Tempest, for example (3,2,3).
- 20 Silly old man gets a shiner (6). 22 Foolish creditors removed from
- Macbeth's high ground (5). 24 People organised to work on
- behalf of church (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,385

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Mison sets 8.16 am Last quarter January 31

TOMORROW Sun rises: 7 48 am Sun sett 4 40 prit Moon sets 8.43 am Last quarter Jenuary 31 London 4 4J pm to 7 46 am Bristol 4 43 pm to 7 56 am Edinburgh 4 33 pm to 8 17 am Manchester 4 40 pm to 8 02 am Penzance 5 06 pm to 8 03 am

HIGH TIDES

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

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Recycled paper made up
41.2% of the new material for
UK newspapers in the first

Midlands, E England, Wales, NW, Central N England: mostly cloudy, a little patchy drizzle. Wind south to coutheasterly malnly light. ☐ General: England and Wales will have rather large amounts of cloud, but should be dry save for some occasional light drizzle. There may be some mist and tog, especially in the North, which may

Max 7C (46F).

Luke District, Isle of Man, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundes, Abordeen, SW Scotclear quits slowly during the morning. Scotland and Northern Ireland lend, Glasgow, Central High-lands, Moray Firth: dry with bright should be mostly dry with bright or sunny spells. However there may be some rather persistent petches or surnry spells. Wind light to moderate melnly southerly. Max 6C

INE, NW Scotland, Argyll; Ork-ney, Shetland, N Ireland: dry with bright or surny spelle. Becoming more cloudy later. Wind south to southwesterly moderate to fresh, southern parts of Scotland. Winds may be strong south-westeriles in the far north but otherwise winds with locally strong. Max 8C (46F). ☐ Cuttoolic weakening band of rain crossing most parts on Mon-day. Mainly dry on Sunday.

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Changes to the chart above from noon: high 8 will edge very slowly southeast with little

☐ London, SE England, E Anglie, Central S England, Channel Islee, SW England: mostly dry but rather cloudy. Wind east to southeasterly mainly light. Max 8C (46F).

Sunny Sunny Cloudy Drizzie i Overces Rain Sunny Mara showers Lightning Wind speed Sea conditions

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INSIDE: SECTION

TODAY

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WORKING WEEK

Roy the rover's 'mission possible' in far-flung regions PAGE 33



BUSINESS

Jason Nissé asks if football clubs are good value PAGE 35



SPORT

England given food for thought in Auckland Test **PAGES 54-60**

THE HIDDEN ASSETS OF SWINTON CASTLE

PAGE 33

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

Sainsbury issues warning

Downgraded profit forecast wipes 13 per cent off share price

SHARES of J. Sainsbury plunged 13 per cent yesterday after the supermarkets group gave a shock warning that its efforts to build sales and catch up with Tesco will mean profits this year well below even the most pessim-Istic City forecasts.

APPLE

At one stage, nearly El billion was wiped off the group's stock market value and the Sainsbury family ended the day with its stake worth some £375 million less. The shares closed 51p down at 341p. The warning adds another

large dent to the already

By SARAH CONNINGHAM battered reputation of Sainsbury's, formerly Britain's largest supermarket chain. "It is an appalling statement. Management credibility is at an alltime low," one analyst said.

Sainsbury said pre-tax profit in the year to March was likely to be £640 million to £650 million. Most forecasts were for about £700 million to E710 million, NatWest Markets lowered its forecast from £708 million to £648 million for 1996-97 and from £794 million to £704 million for the

Last May, Sainsbury announced its first fall in profits a year earlier.

The shortfall of £60 million on the profits expected this year has been blamed almost entirely on costs being higher than predicted. The company announced an entra E50 million provision to convert Texas DIY stores to the Homebase format.

David Sainsbury, chairman. said £10 million would come off profits because of extra costs for the Reward loyalty card, which was launched in May. more than a year after Tesco's successful Club card. A further £5 million will come off profits

E5 million because the group expected stores to be husler in early December and brought in extra staff in anticipation of a rush. But stores only became very busy in the last few days before Christmas.

SATURDAY JANUARY 25 1997

Poor sales at former Texas stores and the closure of some kitchens sales areas within the stores will knock £10 million off profits. The cost of setting up its bank takes off £4 million more. The company still ex-pects to launch the bank in the next few weeks. The final extra costs emerged in the US

Mr Sainsbury played down

are mostly non-recurring sales momentum translated into profit growth." He said the group's store opening programme would not be affected, and that no shop closures or redundancies were expected. He did say that, because investment levels were higher than expected, supermarket

net margins had fallen. "We will look hard at all capital expenditure," he said. We will take a tough view on whether any new spending is essential." He emphasised that sales at Sainsbury's supermarkets had picked up in

than some had expected. In trading period, same store sales were up 4.4 per cent. This is close to the sector average, but still well behind Tesco which earlier this week 7.5 per cent over Christmas.

Tony MacNeary, analyst with NatWest Markets, said he had lowered next year's forecast sharply because Sainsbury's sales growth is not covering the cost of the Reward card, "It needs 5 per cent like-for-like growth to cover the costs and it is not

Societies

review sales

practices

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

BUILDING societies have begun reappraising their promo-

tional literature after a small investor who was paid uncom-

petitive rates of interest successfully sued his society in a county court.
Full details of the judgment

made in Norwich county court are being circulated among society executives this weekend.

of the Building Societies Association, said the impact of the

judgment would depend on

claims made in marketing liter-

ature used by societies and banks at the bottom of the

Robert Anthony sued the Norwich and Peterborough

building society after it claimed it would pay a very

competitive rate of interest" on

his Tessa but then reduced the

Society turmoil, page 35

rate to below that of many

savines league tables.

rival societies.

WEEKEND



Anne Ashworth on the self-assessment debacle

A saver's fight against broken promises





The hi-tech threat to the high-paid manager manager

BUILDING SOCIETIES

Bank of Ireland Mortgages (**)

SOCIETY A question of succession in the society shareouts



Look at your policy before you

David Daynes, chief executive of Anglo-Welsh Group, is raising £2.2 million for Britain's largest canal boat firm by joining the Alternative Investment Market.

Conditions on FirstBus deal suggest clampdown

have grown rapidly by acqui-sition could be facing a tighter regulatory environment after the Department of Trade and Industry yesterday imposed tough conditions on the latest

deal by FirstBus. The DTI has decided to force FirstBus to sell some parts of SB Holdings, the Scottish bus company that it has bought for £96 million. The department followed the advice of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission which ruled that FirstBus's purchase of SB Holdings was not in the

public interest. The move prompted a warning from Brian Souter, chairman of Stagecoachi, regarded as the most aggressive of the bus companies, that the industry could face a tougher re-

gime in future. He said: "Once Labour is in place and we know their policies, then we can move. But for now we have a sabbatical on accursitions in this area because of high

BUSINESS TODAY

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1.6310* (1.6324) 5.4670* (5.5075) 1.4076* (1.4160) 119.05* (119.23) 101.0 (101.3) Tokyo close Yen 119.99 MOSTES SEA OF Brent 15-day (Apr.) \$22.00 (\$22.00)

COLD London clase \$353.35 (\$349.45) denotes midday inading price

happens with the next FirstBus will be forced to

sell one of the four bus depots that it controls in Glasgow, as well as its Midland Bluebird operation. The large depot has both garaging and mainte-nance facilities supporting more than 120 buses. The DTI said: "FirstBus should identify a firm buyer within nine months of the publication of the MMC's report."

The MMC report, which was published yesterday, said that if FirstBus failed to identify a firm buyer "it should be required to divest SBH in its

entirety". The DTI agreed with the MMC that the acquisition had eliminated competition between FirstBus and SBH and that the scale and dominance of the merged entity in central and south east Scotland was likely to deter competition from other operators.

FirstBus has become by far the largest operator in the region. SBH supplied 40 per cent of the bus services in the region. FirstBus already controlled a further 21 per cent. FirstBus bought SBH last

year when Stagecoach was forced to sell a 21 per cent stake, which it had bought in 1994, after pressure from the MMC over competition. Rather than acquiring more UK bus companies, the larger operators could turn their

attention to foreign purchase

targets. Mr Souter said this may be the best way of continuing Stagecoach's strong growth. He said that his European ambitions had been ignited by the Swebus acquistion in Sweden last year. Stagecoach was

"I also think there'll be overseas railways opportunities," he said. "These two will provide the biggest lump of growth in future. That's my prediction."

Horlick legal talks commence

BY JON ASHWORTH

LAWYERS acting for Nicola Horlick and Morgan Grenfell met yesterday, in the opening exchange of what threatens to be a protracted legal battle. The discussions were preliminary, and it is likely to be some weeks until specific demands are made.

Mrs Horlick was suspended from her £1 million iob at Morgan Grenfell ten days ago, amid allegations that she was inciting staff to defect with her to ABN Amro, the Dutch bank. She subsequently resigned. claiming constructive dis-missal. Morgan Grenfell says she was in breach of her contract, and is not entitled to

Herbert Smith, the law firm acting for Mrs Horlick. looking to make further acquisitons in Scandinavia, he is expected to press for substantial compensation. Morgan Grenfell is represented by Fox Williams, the City law firm known for its expertise in executive compensation. The firm has assigned a team to the case, led by Ronnie Fox. the senior partner.

NSM goes into administration with £140m debts

By JASON NISSE

NSM, the coalmine, was placed in administration late yesterday with debts of more than E140 million. It follows Coal Investments into the hands of the accountants, leaving RJB Mining and Rackwood as the UK's only quoted

private coal companies. NSM's shares were suspended at 8p just before Christmas while it attempted to finalise the sale of its Clee Hill plant hire side to pay off some of its debts. Less than two years ago the shares stood

at more than 200p. Arthur Andersen, which cut its teeth in the sector as receivers of Coal Investments, took control yesterday. The firm is expected to sell Clee

Hill and the US mining interests in the next few weeks. A shareholders' meeting had approved the sale of Clee Hill but the deal could not be completed in time to save NSM. The company, which unsuc-

cessfully bid for the South

Wales part of British Coal two years ago, was forced to declare losses of £75 million in problems in the US. John Jermine, NSM's chairman, blamed the problems on unforeseen circumstances - two 'once-in-100-years" storms

happening in successive years. Mr Jermine said he believed that the group's businesses in South Wales would be a strong operation that should year. The business has more than 80 million tonnes of licensed coal reserves at the Pentreclwydau mine.

RJB's shares have been hit by the uncertainty at NSM. which recently obtained permission to buy back 5 per cent of its shares. Barclays de Zoete Wedd, RJB's brokers, downgraded its profits forecast last month. It warned that the price of coal being sold by RJB might be hit by cheap imports

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status. All APRs are variable and typical. Suitable security and life assurance are required. An additional security fee is charged for advances over 75% of property valuation, Principal applicant must be 21 years or older. Written quotations are available on request from Bank

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Blunders blight Halifax payout Sears and now chairman of Hammerson.

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

THOUSANDS of members of the Halifax are being excluded from the flotation bonus because of massive computer blunders. Among those most affected are former Leeds Permanent Building Society savers and borrowers.

At least 100,000 former Leeds savers were given wrong information about the money in their accounts when the society was taken over by the Halifax in 1994. Some savers were told they had enough money in their accounts to qualify for the shares when in fact they did not while others were told they did not qualify. when they did.

Leeds savers may have closed their accounts or depleted them even further. thus excluding themselves entirely from the payout.

Another group of Leeds savers who may find their shares could be in jeopardy are those who were forced to move savings out of Leeds accounts into comparable Halifax accounts after the takeover, assured by the Halifax that they would continue to qualify for the bonus. But the computer has disqualified members if there is any difference in the details on the two accounts.

Among those affected are Geoffrey Maitland Smith, former chairman of

the property company, who had £9,000 in a Save as You Earn scheme with the Leeds, After it was taken over, he was

encouraged to switch to one of Halifax's Gold accounts, then was surprised to learn last year that he was not eligible for Mr Maitland Smith has been unable to get a reply from the Halifax about his

predicament. After The Times contacted the Halifax. it agreed that there had been an error. It refused to say how many people had been affected or whether it would pay compen-

BUSINESS NEWS B

Unilever's Mexican venture

Unilever is making its first move into the Mexican ice cream market through a joint venture with Helados Helanda, the leading local ice cream business.

It has also acquired the rights to Iberia, a leading Mexican ice cream brand. from Prolesa. Unilever has also agreed a distribution deal with Prolesa for its existing Anderson Clayton food business in Mexico.

Grid options

David Jones, chief executive of the National Grid. was more than £250,000 richer yesterday after cashing in share options for nearly 400,000 shares at 135p a share.

BZW deal

Bank of Scotland has hired BZW Securities as joint stockbroker to work alongside its existing bro-

Dunn sale

UK SAFETY, the Bristol manufacturer of protective work clothing, has bought the corporate clothing divi-sion of Dunn & Co for £315.000 through a share

B&B change

Geoffrey Lister, vice-chairman and former chief executive of the Bradford & Bingley Building Society, has retired at 60. Christo-pher Rodrigues has taken

Rank change

Mike Lavington, Rank's group personnel director. has taken over as acting managing director of the leisure group's holidays

Seton brand

Seton Healthcare has hought a sleeping aid called Sominex from SmithKline Beecham for



Sebastian Coe, the MP and former Olympic runner, is encouraging British companies to take part in the Mitel Challengers Trophy 97, which tests teamwork, communication and leadership skills over four days of sporting competition in July. It also raises money for the Royal National Institute for the Blind. He is pictured with Alan Kirkham, Mitel's managing director.

Labour pressed to delay power market if elected

By Christine Buckley, industrial correspondent

LABOUR is facing growing pressure to postpone the ambirious scheme to enable household consumers to shop around for electricity.

As the election approaches, fears are growing that the programme is about to fall into chaos. It is thought that Labour has been urged, if it wins the election, to slow the introduction of competition. The present aim is that more than 20 million homes should be able to buy electricity competitively by 1998.

Calls for a wholesale revision of the project are now coming from independent energy experts, along with a massive lobby from the com-

panies that must implement the mechanics of the system. Fresh fears have been fuelled by increased evidence that the complicated computer networks and other necessary operations are foundering. At Yorkshire Electricity, which has given public

warnings of the social costs of the world's first attempt to deliver competition to the household market, two key staff suddenly left the company recently after playing important roles in the 1998 project. Brian Morgan, a director, retired on health grounds, while John Heath. director of regulation, took

Last year, Hyder, the Welsh multi-utility, pulled out of a new IBM scheme to deliver competition run in conjunction with Sweb, the South Western electricity company. Sweb is reviewing its position but said that the system will not be running by 1998. Dieter Helm, the Oxford

energy adviser, said a Labour government should launch a revaluation of the project "the day after the election". Both the programmes to bring in electricity and gas competition had been poorly managed and needed effective trials, and the 1998 programme cannot be delivered as it is now envis-

John Battle, the Shadov Energy spokesman, rejected industry speculation that Labour was considering plans to delay competition if it wins the election. But he gave warning that the programme must work efficiently. "The worst of all worlds would be for people not to get their bills and then. surprise, surprise, a Tory opposition would turn round

and blame us," he said. The gas trials in the South West, where 500,000 customers can buy gas competitively, have been plagued by billing problems. Similarly, British Gas has blamed preparation for competition for huge errors in its customer billing.

Railtrack deal aims to halt

decline in freight business

Sony seeks tie-up with **News Corp** in JSkyB

INTOKKO

SONY Corporation said yes-terday that it wanted to become a full partner in JSkyB, which will launch multi-channei digital television in Japan this year.

JSkyB was established last December as a joint venture between The News Corporation, parent company of The Times, and Softbank, the Japanese computer software dis-tributor and publisher. The joint venture will launch about 12 channels this autumn, and a further 150 channels in April next year.

Sony officials said that Nobuyuki idei, the company's president, had held talks with Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of News Corp. but an agreement had not been reached yet. According to Sony, its proposal to become an equal shareholder had met with "some dissent-

ing voices in JSkyB".

A Sony official said: "We would like to participate in the JSkyB project by taking a position that would give us a say (in the running), rather than merely putting up some capital." Sony is a leading manufacturer of digital studio cameras and equipment, as well as the top maker of equipment for uplinking broadcast signals to satellites. On Thursday, Mr idei an-

nounced that this year Sony Corp, Sony Music Entertainment Inc and Sony Pictures Entertainment of America will form a company combining operations related to digital satellite television broadcasting. The operations would include the manufacture of set-top boxes for decoding satellite TV signals, as well as some of Sony's "content" bush nesses such as film and TV

production. The growth potential for the digital satellite broadcast ing business is extremely big.

Mr Idei told the news confer ence held to unveil Sony's

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

United in deal with Discovery channel

UNITED NEWS & MEDIA, the newspaper and TV company formed last year by the merger of United and MAI, announced yesterday that it has agreed to supply Discovery Communications of America with its library of Survival natural history programmes. United said the deal is worth \$55 million over seven years, starting later this year.

Discovery, which is controlled by Tele Communications, the largest cable company in the US, acquired the cable and sateilite rights to 180 hours of Survival programming, plus the rights to the entire back catalogue, covering 400 hours, for the Latin American market and most of the European

The programmes will be shown on Discovery's Animal Planet channels. The deal will not interfere with ITV's right to broadcast new Survival programmes in Britain. Only the older programmes, whose terrestrial rights have expired, will be shown exclusively by Discovery.

BAT in US sell-off

BAT, the tobacco and insurance company, revealed that Farmers, its American insurance subsidiary, has agreed to sell its Columbus-based Ohio State Life Insurance and Investors Guaranty Life Insurance companies to Great Southern Life Insurance Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of Americo Life, for about \$330 million in cash. The deal is subject to regulatory approval but is not expected to have a material impact on the trading profit of Farmers,

Marshalls shares fall

SHARES in Marshalls fell by 34p to 126's p yesterday when the paving stone company warned that this year's profits will be "materially lower" than current market forecasts. It said trading conditions in the UK concrete and stone markets had remained weak in the second half, and profits margins had come under pressure. Marshalls said it is in a strong financial position and intends to recommend an unchanged final dividend for the year to March 1997.

Baring recruits rival

BARING Asset Management has posched Christopher Poil, a senior institutional fund manager at rival Mercury Asset Management, to be number two in its UK Equity team, Mr Poil, 32, joined MAM ten years ago and most recently worked for Carol Galley on its £20 billion Select fund. He will report to Nick Sykes, head of UK courties, in his new role. BAM's 13-strong UK teaen manages £4 billion of assets. Mr Sykes said Mr Poll would improve its stockpicking process.

Prelude raises £20.8m

PRECUDE TRUST, an investment company set up to tap the growth of small British technology stocks, has raised £20.8 million prior to joining the main market on Thursday. Dr Robert Hook and Andrew Aliars, hope to emulate the success of their Prejude Fund II, which has grown by 43 per cent a year over the past seven years. Prelude Trust will invest between \$500,000 and \$25 million in unquoted companies in the software, blotech and specialist chemicals sectors.

BR success for Sema

SEMA, the computer services and software group, said it has been selected as the preferred bidder to acquire BR Business Systems, a company formed to take over the business services division of British Rail. BR Business Systems designs operates and maintains the main railway information ecomology intrastructure for Britain, including ticketing. ment, on-line mana timetabling. It has 1,100 staff and £13.2 million net assets.

TL reviews assets

TOMORROWS LEISURE, which runs two hotels in the North East, and it is vigorously pursuing plans to realise the development potential of its under-used assets. In the six months to September 29 pre-tax profits fell to £22,000 (£29,000) on increased sales of £4.2 million. Both Redworth Hall Hotel and Hellaby Hall Hotel won best hotel awards and contributed to profits. Its Pleasure Island attraction is still trading at a loss.

Sun Life hits out at rivals as new business rises 11%

SUN Life Corporation claimed yesterday that some life companies were reducing premiums and raising commission in order to chase market share (Marianne

Though Les Owen, the managing director, maintained that Sun Life had not sacrificed profitability for market share, he said: "The industry needs to take great care that customers' expectations ... are not being overinflated."

His comments came as Sun Life, a subsidiary of Sun Life and Provincial Holdings, unveiled total new business for 1996 (new regular premiums plus one tenth of single premiums) up 11 per cent to £264

million (£237 million). Total new regular premiums increased 13 per cent to £145 million (£128 million). Single premiums increased 9 per cent to £1.2 billion (£1.1 billion).

Mr Owen said there had

been particular increases in the protection and money purchase pensions markets.

Meanwhile J Rothschild Assurance, 51 per cent owned by St James's Place Capital, achieved a 41 per cent in-crease in new business in 1996 from £61.4 million to £86.6 million. Total new regular premiums rose from £37.4 million to £52.4 million, while new single premiums grew from £240.2 million to £342.3 million.

A DEAL worth £150 million a year has been struck between Railtrack and the Americanowned operators of the former British Rail freight operations,

aimed at reversing the decline of rail freight in Britain (Jonathan Prynn writes). Railtrack and Welsh & Scottish Railway (EWS), which bought BR's freight operations last year, said the breakthrough deal had been agreed after months of tough negotiations. It must

now go to John Swift, the Rail Regulator, for approval. The provisional agreement replaces the complex and unwieldy structure of dozens of separate track access agreements that Railtrack had in place with a variety of BR freight subsidiaries. Instead, a new four-year "master" contract will allow English Welsh and Scottish to set far more economic and competitive prices to its freight customers.

Although EWS will not pay

Body Shop

rival plans

big expansion

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

THE BODY SHOP is facing

tougher competition at home in the face of plans by Bath and Body Works, its Ameri-can rival, to expand its British

network of shops.
Bath and Body Works said.

yesterday that it has appointed Stephen Schaffer, 39, the co-founder of the Knickerbox

chain of lingerie stores, as its new managing director for

Europe.

Beth Pritchard, president

and chief executive of Bath and Body Works, part of The Limited group, said that she

sees potential for up to 200 shops in the UK. There are now five — In Edinburgh, Derby, Nottingham, Milton Keynes and Watford, Over

the next few months, the plan

is to build brand recognition

real estate

less for its access to the Railmack network to start with, its unit costs will fall as its freight business picks up under the terms of the deal: Robin Gisby, head of freight at Railtrack, said the certainty

of the income stream from EWS would allow the company to step up its investment in the freight network. Freigh on the railways now account for less than one tenth of the non-pipeline freight transport market in Britain.

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Diamond jobs in London

BY JON ASHWORTH

A WIDE-RANGING investigation into the South African diamond industry will not affect jobs in London, it was claimed yesterday by the Central Selling Organisation.

not threatened

The CSO, which markets most of the world's production of rough (uncut) gems, is associated with De Beers, the South African diamond producer. The CSO relies on the republic for only about 20 per cent of its business

It had been suggested that the CSO's entire 1,000-strong London workforce was under threat. The CSO yesterday dismissed the reports as "non-sense", and said it would not be affected by a South African government commission of inquiry into the diamond industry. The CSO is controlled by Centenary, the Swiss-based offshore arm of De Beers.

TOURIST RATES

i		
	Benk Buys	Bank Sels
Austraha S	2.20	2.04
Austres Soft	19.70	18.20
Belgium Fr	57.76	53.46
Canada \$	2.297	2.137
Cyprus Cyp£.	0.831	0.778
Denmark Kr	10.72	9.82
Finland Mkk France Fr	8.52	7.87 8.73
Germany Dm .	9.35 2.81	2.60
Greece Dr	434	409
Hong Kong S	13.25	12.25
individ	120	100
iceland Pt	1.07	0.99
Israel Shk	5.67	5.02
Italy Lira	2710	2555
Japan Yen	209.30	193.30
Malla	0.649	0.594
Netherida Gid	3.136	2,906
Now Zealand S	2.50	2.28
Norway Kr	11.26	10,46
Portugal Esc	277.00	258.50
S Africa Rd	8.10	7.30
Spain Pta	231.00	218.00
Sweden Kr	12.40	11.60
Switzerland Fr	244	2.26
Turkey Lira	194600	182800
U5A \$	1,726	1.588
Responsion sen	all denotes	ation bank 1

THE SUNDAY TIMES Blair's

and study possibilities.

What has changed is that if you are a businessman you can quite easily vote either way now, as you can in the States. A lot of younger businessmen recognise that

business

How Tony Blair wooed the City and industry Business - The Sunday

Now ' the Peps that

outpep the rest

If you're about to invest in a Pep, it certainly pays to be in the know. The Peps Survey in this week's Investors Chronicle contains all the information you need.

Included in the survey is a round-up of the latest Peps on the market and up-to-date performance tables.

You'll discover how Peps fit into the wider issue of personal financial planning, Will a Pep meet your investment goals, how do they compare with other investments and what are the rules on tax?

We also help you in choosing a suitable plan - deciding between income or growth, assessing the value of past

Single Company Peps, Corporate Bond Peps, Unit Trust Peps, Investment Trust Peps, Savings Schemes, and Self-select Plans, Essential reading, before you

between charges, and

understanding the different

Investors Chronicle, complete with Peps Survey, is on sale Friday 24th January 1997 from your newsagent. Price £2.20,

THE CITY INSIDE OUT

A WORKING WEEK FOR: ROY REYNOLDS

Roy the rover revels in role of kick-start agent

Jon Ashworth meets the chief executive of the UK's overseas development finance

institution, with investments in 56 countries

and Shell-off

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SIND SALUTAN

REAL HOLL BANK

Mionday \(\) must dread those cock-Tuesday tail party introduc-tions. "I run something called the Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC)," he will tell you. "You know, the

agency that provides money for Third World projects - farms in Zambia, power stations in Pakistan, that sort of thing. We have £1.5 billion in investments spread around the place. You've never heard of us?"

Cut to a run-down street in Africa or Asia and things are rather different. Reynolds is the man with the blank cheque, a person of limitless power and influence in these nether regions of the world. He is analogous to the British coastal trader in Conrad's Victory, who steams up and down the South China Sea. laden with supplies for forgotten settlements. The villagers see him coming and launch into wild celebrations, knowing he is too kind-hearted to mark up his prices.

Reynolds, 57, has much in common with our fictional captain. Born and bred in Birmingham, he spent years in exotic climes, working in Curação, Brunei and Singapore in a long career with Shell, the Angle-Dutch oil group. The difference is that Reynolds managed to adapt on returning to the UK. Our unhappy skipper pays a visit to England, catches a bad cold, and drops

down dead. Coming home then was no easier than now.

The other main distinction involves money. Reynolds is intent on turning a profit, whatever the risks of investing in far-flung regions. CDC provides loans and start-up capital in areas where the closest bank is

often hundreds of miles away. Fraud, theft and mismanagement are some of the dangers. But at least budding entrepreneurs are given a fighting chance.

Reynolds has slipped comfortably into his new role since taking early retirement from Shell five years ago. High Commissioners come cap-in-hand to his offices near the Tate Gallery in central London. His in-tray is filled with exotic proposals - fish farms in Zimbabwe; citrus plantations in Costa Rica. Reynolds and his emissaries sift through perhaps 1,000 requests a year. Only about 70 or 80 will

ever be approved. Pen-pushing in London is one thing, but it is out in the field that Reynolds comes into his own. In November, he surfaced in Lusaka, Zambia, at about the same time as British Airways workers were being pelted with rocks by rioting students. Meetings with ministers led to the Zambian Copper Belt, which is currently being privatised. Nearly 40 companies are in the market for stateowned mining and power assets. They include Anglo American, Gencor and

Reynolds recalls: "The copper mines in

ROY REYNOLDS Zambia are whole townships, a bit like the old coalmines in the UK. One would go and meet the management, meet the people, talk to them about the issues."

6 You have to

accept you're

going to have

failures. It's a

high-risk area 9

A different type of Zambian produce is destined for Tesco, and other UK supermarket chains. CDC's extensive agricul-tural interests produce baby corn, beans, mange-tout, and fresh roses — flown out daily from Lusaka.

He travels by scheduled flight and Land Rover, chartering aircraft when the location is remote. Zambia led to Zimbabwe, where investors are seeking to breed tilapia [a freshwater fish] on Lake Kariba. To the north, workers are rehabilitating tea plantations in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania, pruning wild tea bushes that untended can grow to 20th or more. To the east, CDC is looking at container facilities for Maputo in Mozambique.

CDC has grown into a sprawling enterprise since the original Colonial Development Corporation was founded in 1948. Chaired by Lord Cairns, the chairman of BAT Industries, CDC is the UK's overseas development finance institution, holding more than 400 investments in 56 countries, and providing jobs for about 40,000 people. A predicted £300 million will be ploughed into projects in 1997 alone.

There are sugar mills, citrus groves — even power stations. CDC provides all the electricity on St Lucia in the Caribbean, and is about to take on the same role in

Dominica. It recently made its first foray into Vietnam, financing the nation's first large-scale sugar refinery. Reynolds has a clear

sense of the CDC's priorities. "We are there to assist the economic development of the poorer We do that by making investments — equity and loans - and by supporting business-

es. It has to be commercial. It has to assist in the economic growth in that country. If others can do it without us then we say. please get on with it." So is he free with his cheques? To a degree, yes, but I don't think people see CDC any more as a source of cheap

finance. I think they recognise that we are very much a commercial organisation. Even so, there are still not many people in Africa who are going in to make those sorts of investments." s will ofte plaining away the latest disastrous invest-ment. You have to accept that you're

going to have failures," he says. "We're in a high-risk area, but the fact that we've been in these countries, sometimes for 40 years, means we can reduce the risks." CDC has offices on the ground, and keeps

a watchful eye over its charges.

One — as yet untested — venture is taking shape in Soweto, the sprawling township on the outskirts of Johannesburg. Curiously, for a city with up to eight million inhabitants, Soweto does not have one formal shopping centre. Much of the trade is done by street hawkers. Residents



Roy Reynolds, CDC chief executive, has a clear sense of priorities. "We are there to assist the economic development of poorer countries in the world."

rely on taxi minibuses for those long treks to the supermarket.

Working with Norwich Properties, a South African life assurance group, CDC is backing three new shopping centre complexes, which are due to open in May. They will include grocery stores, banking facilities and fast-food outlets. Well intended, no doubt - but will they still be standing by Christmas? In the past less ambitious schemes have fallen prey to township rivalries.

Reynolds remains confident. "It's got to make sense to have shopping centres in Sowero, but the very fact they haven't one runs. But one has to start. The important thing is seeing that the black

community owns and runs them." In 28 years with Shell he travelled widely. Imperial College led, first, to The Hague, and then to Curação in the Dutch Antilles. In the early Seventies he was dispatched to Brunei, where the world's first large liquid natural gas (LNG) project was taking shape. He went on to

oversee the entire project.
Brunei led to Singapore, where Reynolds was put in charge of the enormous Shell refinery on Pulau Bukom island. He was lucky to find time for a round of golf

on Saturdays, let alone the occasional Tiger beer at Raffles. "In Singapore you're 'really working all hours." he recalls. "You lived on the island. You had to be there

when the fire alarm went off." Reynolds returned to the UK in 1984. Monday _ taking charge of man-Tuesday 🗸 ufacturing, trading and distribution for Wednesday Shell UK. He went on to look after the company's "downstream"

UK operations, before opting for early retireexecutive of CDC appealed at once. You're looking at a long-term investment business," Reynolds says. "Shell is a long-

term investment business. So is CDC. You actually have to work with local communities. You have to understand how people think, how they're

Reynolds is on the road ten to 12 weeks a year, assessing proposals and chivvying up existing projects. He recently returned from India, where he met politicians and business leaders. "India is looking for further investment. While they need it, they're always a bit concerned about how it should come in. CDC is perhaps the right sort of vehicle."

Holdings in India include a factory bulbs a day. A fund aimed at stimulating trade and investment in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh may follow. It would mirror the Commonwealth Africa Investment Fund (Comafin), launched last year to support unquoted companies in suit-Saharan Africa.

Revnolds is not alone in finding an attractive bolthole in CDC. Bob Clark, head of CDC industries, formerly ran !CI Explosives. Nick Selbie, in charge of CDC investments, was formerly with Kleinwort Benson and Barclays de Zocte Wedd (BZV). Robert Binyon, managing director of CDC financial markets, held senior posts at Deutsche Murgan Grenfell and Tokai Bank. A club for agoing executives seeking a second career? Or a capital for the world's poorer nations? Out in the wilds of Africa it would not be hard to guess at the answer.

HIDDEN ASSETS

Managers put through their paces at Swinton Castle

E courses at Lindley Training Centre, a management training outlit within the castellated walls of Swinton Castle, west Yorkshire, should not be surprised at this time of year to see people carrying braces of pheasant as they return from the day's shoot. Contrary to some rumours, they are not part of a case study, but are there as guests of the Earl of Swinton, who has retained the right to use rooms in the castle that once belonged to his ancestors.

Built to display the political, royal and artistic influence of his 17th-century forebears, Swinton Castle today hosts management training courses for every level, from company directors to graduate trainees at GEC or ICI being put through their paces. The building, now owned

by the Lindley Educational

Lindley Educational Trust offers more than courses, Joanna Pitman finds

in landscaped grounds that was transformed into a cas-tle in the 1820s. It is a fine asset, but it is as much a liability on the balance sheet, because of the high costs of maintenance and insurance. Swinton Castle has had a colourful 300-year history. It embodies the story of the evolution of a family and dearly shows the differing tastes of each successive owner. The first house on the site was built by Sir Abstropus Danby, a descendant of the Scrope family, a distinguished line of soldiers who had been given land in the 14th century for supporting Edward II in his inva-

Trust, is an impressive house

sion of Scotland. Seven generations after the Scrope lands had passed

Swinton was castellated after one of its owners returned from a Grand Tour

down the female line into the Danby family, a befuddled parson who should have christened the eldest son Apscrope (son of Scrope) in honour of his ancestors, muddled his diction and christened him Abstropus instead. Sir Abstropus had decided to build a house on his inherited lands. It was a square construction of three floors topped by a cupola. By 1697 the house was completed and Sir Abstropus celebrated by spending the double leaf gold for the

golden ball on the cupoia. Sir Abstropus died in 1727 and his son, also named Abstropus, had the parlour room remodelled and panelled in white. His son, William, added a range of

and then had a great gate built to his own design. He also enlarged the house and developed the parkland, planting 6,000 fir trees and creating a chain of lakes. In the 1780s his helf,

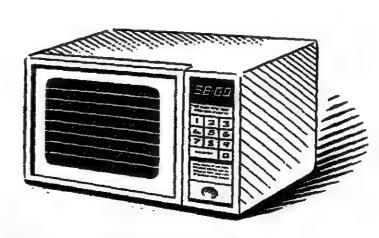
William Danby the younger, set off on the Grand Tour and spent four years absorb-ing the architectural and artistic glories of Italy. He had inherited his father's enthusiasm for improvements and on his return

spent 30 years on changes.

A new wing was added, a "great pond" dug in the grounds and 30,000 larth and Scots pine planted to create a vision worthy of the Grand Tourist's sophisticated eye. A museum was built for Danby's archaeological and botanical specimens and the museum's architect, who had a passion for castellation, managed to persuade him to turn Swinton into a castle. A massive round tower with porte-cochère was built and the whole construction was topped with turrets and battlements to complete

the illusion of a castle. On Danby's death in 1833, Swinton Castle passed to his second wife and on to her cousin who sold it in 1882 to Samuel Cunliffe-Lister, a 68year-old inventor and the fourth son of an old landed family. He extended the estate and added new decorative ornament.

Three generations later, the Cunliffe-Listers sold Swinton Castle and 17 acres to the Lindley Educational Trust. Two thousand managers now enjoy its hospital-



What's changed the climate in Brazil?

Since introducing a new economic plan two years ago. Brazil has enjoyed great success. Inflation has plummeted from 2,700% to 15% while per capita income has risen by over 50%.

This new-found affluence has unleashed a massive demand for electrical appliances. With investments in Brazil's household goods manufacturers, Martin Currie is perfectly placed to make the most of this promising investment opportunity.

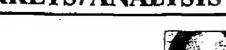
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هكذا من الأصل

Sainsbury profits alert starts retail sector slide

SHARE prices and govern-ment securities fell sharply in response to programme selling overnight on Wall Street. London also suffered from a surprise profits warning by J Sainsbury, Britain's second biggest food retailer.

As the Dow Jones industrial average continued to lose ground in early trading yesterday, the FT-SE 100 index finished just above its low for the day. It was left nursing a fall of 52.7 from Thursday's closing high to finish at 4,218.8, reducing the rise on the week to just 11.1. A total of 795 million shares changed

Government securities feil by up to El, reflecting losses among US Treasury bonds and German bunds.

Sainsbury was an early casualty, touching 339p before ending the session 510 down at 341p after the profits warning. which sent brokers reeling, and news of further provisions its Texas DÎY chain

totalling £50 million.

The group, headed by David Sainsbury, chairman, said that the final picture would show profits of between £640 million and £650 million compared with City forecasts of between £700 million and £725 million. Brokers quickly moved to downgrade and the company's own broker changed from a "buy" to a

The trading statement re-vealed like-for-like sales growth of 7 per cent, at the top end of expectations but still short of rival Tesco. Almost 29.7 million shares changed

The news from Sainsbury sent investors in the other food retailers rushing for the exits as Safeway fell 13p to 3891 ap, Tesco 8p to 300p, Somerfield 4p to 16912p, Asda 234p to 12112p, and Kwik Save 12p to

BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of of The Times, dropped 1312p to 566p on turnover of 4.15 million shares amid reports that Granada had put its 6.5 per cent stake in the company up for sale. Granada was quick to

deny any such suggestions. Whispers had swept the market-place first thing that the group was ready to accept keen to benefit from BSkyB's



David Sainsbury saw Sainsbury shares end 5lp lower

and from pay-per-view screening of Premier League football. Granada has already been in talks with local neighhour Manchester United about developing its own tele-vision facilities at the Old Trafford ground. Its shares closed 712p better at 86712p benefiting from a decision by UBS, the broker, to upgrade its recommendation from a

drop-off in foreign exchange its revenues, had begun to affect profits. The group is now estimated to be sitting on almost £1 billion in cash after abandoning plans to hand back £631 million in September.

A profits downgrade left David S Smith 6'ap lower at 28-ip. Merrill Lynch, the bro-

Ofex-quoted Chartfield, which owns the Waverly Group of unit trusts, rose 5p to 55p on bid hopes. Gabriel Trust owns 22.6 per cent and is tipped to bid for the rest. But with the directors holding 38 per cent, Jupiter Tyndali 5 per cent and Amic 7.5 per cent, any bid will have to be agreed - at a substantial premium.

"hold" to a "buy". Manchester United firmed 313p to 732p. Racal Electronics finally got moving by putting in a late run to finish 1912p better at 2681ap on turnover of 3.29 million shares. This latest bout of speculative buying was prompted by talk that it is

disposal. Reuters, the news agency and financial information specialist, dropped 1712p to 68212p on suggestions that the

close to making a major

ker, has cut its 1997 profit estimate for the paper and packaging group by £8 million to £100 million. It has also reduced its forecast for 1998 by £5 million to £115 million.

Sun Life failed to respond to new business figures showing a rise of 13 per cent to £145 million. The price finished 512p lower at 28412p with Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, telling clients that the shares are at least 100p too expensive. It says the price has

MOVERS OF THE WEEK		
Thom 201½p Peptide 278½p J Sainsbury 341p Victrex 198p Kingsbury 203p 800 Group 140p Life Sciences Int. 138p Jacques Vert 50p William Cook 422½p	500 Profite warning 430p Medeve invests £3m 55½p Profit warning 68p Profits warning 96½p Profits warning 68p Profits warning 68p Profits warning 68p Profits warning 68p Management counter-bid 44p Management counter-bid	

lation and is too high or fundamentals alone. FirstBas went into reverse losing 412p at 221p after th Government ordered it to sel part of its operations in Scot land after the acquisition of SE Holdings, the Glasgow but company. Profit-taking left Zenec

3812p lower at £16.85, after briefly touching £17.4712. The shares have climbed sharply this week on the back of th weaker pound and revived bio talks. After Thursday's sharp gains in the sector Camtal finishing 40p dearer at 752½ p News of reduced losses lift ed Park Foods 512p to 55p. The Christmas hamper sup

plier saw turnover covering the Christmas period soar to E100 million. The interim dividend has been pegged at l.lp. Roxboro Group dropped Sp to 183p on the news that TI Group had sold its entire 8.46 per cent stake in the marketplace. The 4.75 million shares

were placed at 182p. A profits warning took its toll of Marshalls, the building supplies group, with the price falling 34p to 12612p. Tough trading conditions at its concrete and stone division will leave profits "materially lower" than current market fore-

casts of around £23.5 million. Hoose of Fraser slipped 312p to 142p ahead of Monday's trading statement. The troubled department store group is expected to report disappointing trading conditions in the period preceding

☐ GILT-EDGED: Prices at the longer end of the market fell by almost El in response to similar losses among German. bunds. These losses accelerated late in the day after renewed weakness among US Treasury bonds leaving prices in London closing at their low. The March series of the long gilt finished E²³32 lower at £110° to as the total number of contracts completed reached

Treasury 8 per cent 2015 dropped E^{13} 16 at E^{103} 1732, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was 516 off

☐ NEW YORK: Shares were broadly lower at midsession as sell programs and a weaker bond market intensified pres midday the Dow Jones indus-LONDON FINANCIAL FURTIRES

Ī		
·.	New York (midday): Dow Jones 6721 50 (-34.25) S&P Composite 774.09 (-3.47)	
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	Hong Kong: LX79.55 (-20.78)	
	Amsterdam: 676.66 (-8.34)	
	Sydney: 3(23.0 (-11.5)	
-	Frankfurt 2598.24 (-35.22)	
÷.	Singapore: 225.42 (-12.92)	
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e N E	Zurich: SEA Gen	
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	Bank of England official close (4pm)	
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A MODELLA CONTRACTOR
RISES: Shield Dieg
London Clubs
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Rotie & Noten

Closing Prices Page 58.

. 720p (-165p) .. 554p (-12p)

A mouse trap for fat cats HOW do we steal the cream from the fat cats? Unlike the 1980s tax on banks, Labour's lovy

with the rail infrastructure

provider. EWS believes it

can increase traffic substan-

tially, but it needs to offer a

carrot to freight forwarders

and that means lower prices.

As a rule of thumb, road has

the price advantage for dis-

tances up to 200 miles after

which rail becomes competi-

Deep in the heart of Labour Party headquarters at Walworth Road, an army of scrawny but indignant mice is planning a heist. Starved of power, they have secret plans to build mouseholes but lack resources. The fat cats look lazy, sleek and ready to be taxed:

But like most cats, the utility bosses are not asleep, just napping. They too have plans — most are lobbying hard to escape the utility tax. Will all cats be taxed, or just fat ones? British Gas is no longer fat and what about BT? The fat phone company has been nice to the mice. But the Labour party is keeping mum. While the utilities spit and snarlsome Americans are even reaching for their lawyers - they do their cause no good.

The essence of the utility tax is politics, not economics. A future labour Government will need money but no one has a clue how much could be raised; and small sums - a few billion - are hardly worth bothering about.

cannot isolate a superprofit such as one gained from high interest rates or oil prices. A simple method would be to establish a benchmark return on capital. A tax could be constructed to cream off a percentage of any surplus return.

Easily done, but not necessarily sensible; such a tax on profit would punish efficiency and would ill sait a new consumer-conscious Labour Party. There is the problem of

defining profits and the inevitable risk of spinring accountants into tax avoidance.

But all this may be irrelevant and the Labour Party's best move is to sir still and watch the cats prowl. Few utility directors fully understand the depths of public conterupt for them. The more they oppose the tax, the more it will be popular. A court case pitting fat cats against the tax would be a godsend for Labour. Even now the mice may be planning to good the cats into a rage.

nitude and lorries have the

As a monopoly access pro-

vider, Railtrack had no need

to offer a price cut to EWS

but was right to do so.

Without it, EWS has little

hope of luring customers away from road hauliers and

Railtrack is in this game for

edge in flexibility.

Railtrack

EVERYONE hates big lor-ries. Noisy, smelly things that trighten small animals as well as car drivers. The green lobby wants more of the freight currently trans-ported by truck to be transferred to the rails. Such a policy sounds sensible, but while freight volumes tend to grow with the economy, rail's share has been in decline, falling from 9 per cent in 1986 to 6 per cent in 1994. Railtrack believes it could fall further with competition from road hauliers and the decline of coal which accounts for a third of rail

However, the Americans who have taken over English Welsh and Scottish Railways think differently. EWS accounts for 80 per cent of Railtrack's freight income and yesterday renegotiated a tive. But there are few jouran even longer haul. JAKING FREIGHT PORWARD

myriad of access comracts neys in Britain of that mag-

J Sainsbury

THE stock market gave a resounding and fully deserved raspberry to the J Sainsbury dream team yes-terday. After all, if the coach claims to have assembled a top notch management with a winning strategy, as David Sainsbury did, the fans cannot fail to be disappointed if their team is knocked out in the first round, however tough the competition.

Life is indeed tough on the high street. Retailers are struggling with low inflation. rising property and wage costs and a finnicky consumer Competition is formidable - all four of the big food and are investing heavily. began to adopt the demandand bargain conscious, udes of their North

American counterparts. What is worse economic recovery shows no sign that shoppers will revert to mute acceptance of higher prices. in a bid to stop the rot and

recover market share, David Sainsbury appointed Dino Adriano and David Bremner as joint chief executives: the a fillip to the share price. However, the confidence appears to have been misplaced. Some 600 million of extra costs landed suddenly in the profit and loss account during December, Noone has suggested. the new management were off: enjoying the early snow at a continental resort. Therefore, a catalogue of fumbles and

dispute at Giant Food in the US, in which Sainsbury's Rolds a majority stake, and

which cost 55 million. Elsewhere the errors are blatant. Sainsbury packed its supermarket with staff expecting a Christmas rush in early December: an extraordinary desuggests shoppers buy food as late as possible. Hence the

decision by Asda, Saleway

and Tesco to open some

stores all night in the run-up

to the holiday.

Sure enough, Samsbury felt no pressure to follow suit. Christmas comes but once a year but every year it arrives on December 25. Sainsbury mutters that it got its timing wrong. In a world of statisticians and forecasters, that sounds utterly absurd. The the management have just lost all credibility.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

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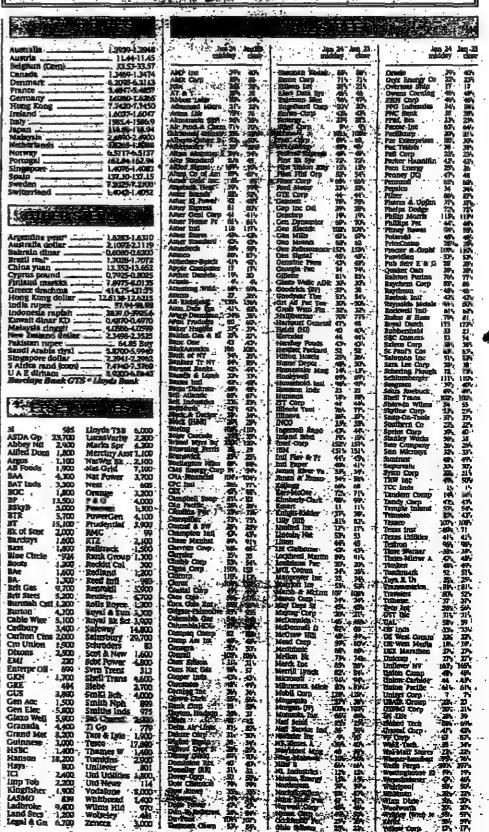
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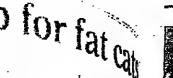
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HOME FRONT 36

Leaseholders battle against their landlord

WEEKEND MONFY

LOOKING AHEAD

Money Guides. New series starts next Saturday



ES: PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Societies in turmoil over rate pledges

Marianne Curphey reports on a court case that has important implications for society savers

uilding society bosses are this weekend poring over a landmark legal ruling which could open the floodgates for tens of thousands of investors to sue them over declining

They are urgently reap-praising marketing literature to check whether bold claims about investment returns can be justified.

The savings industry has been rocked to its core after The Times reported how Robert Anthony, 49, a Suffolk schoolteacher, successfully sued the Norwich and Peterborough Building Society in the small claims court after it cut the rate on his tax-exempt special savings account. If the 19,144 other savers with the same Tessa did likewise, it could cost Norwich and Peter-

borough £5.5 million. The case lays all other banks and building societies whose investment performance falls short of their initial claims open to similar action.

The Building Societies Association yesterday began circulating copies of the Norwich County Court judgment to all its members. Mr Anthony said opened his account after finding Norwich and Peterhigh street rates. When he

£3,000 in January 1992, it was paying 12 per cent and the society's marketing literature claimed it would pay "a very competitive rate of interest". However, he alleged the rate soon fell and over four years, Norwich and Peterborough had failed to fulfil this claim by maintaining an interest rate near the bottom of recog-

nised league tables. District Judge Jim Horrocks agreed and awarded him £285 -a sum equal to the extra interest he would have earned had his money been in an ac-

count paying an average rate, plus £50 court costs. Mr Anthony said a society offering a top rate of interest would have paid an extra £500. He kept track of his Tessa

and questioned the rates with his local branch. They replied by saying that "at any one time, a particular type of account may be more or less competitive than another in comparison with other financial institutions".

Judge Horrocks said: "The plaintiff's case is that the defendants' interest rates, while starting off well, fell after about 18 months and thereafter far borough offered one of the best from being very competitive were then about the worst of all started his Tessa Elite with its competitors ... the defen-

dants say the words 'ver competitive were a mere 'puff' and/or have no contractual relevance and/or other legal effect." He described how solicitors for the Norwich and Peterborough argued that Mr Anthony had accepted and signed the terms and conditions of the Tessa, which made no mention of the words in the brochure. But the judge said he had reached the conclusion that "very competitive" means very competitive with our competitors" and that in turn meant "as good as if not better than those of its competitors

He added that as Mr Anthony began to take an interest in his returns and raised the issue with the society, "so the wording of the brochure was watered down by the defendants from 'very competitive' to 'competitive' and finally to 'attractive' rates of interest. Why would they have done this if they were confident the

from time to time".

words were simply a puff?"
The Norwich and Peterborough said it believed it had good grounds" to appeal, but had decided not to.

Mr Anthony said: "I am delighted, I paid £50 to take on a multimillion pound company in court and won. Other investors in a similar position should write and ask for the



Vindicated: Robert Anthony took on the might of the Norwich and Peterborough and won

Late payers face extra tax charge

A countants are urging their clients to pay the first tax demand under self-assessment on time - if they do not they face paying 8.5 per cent interest on the unpaid tax. They could have to pay this, even if the Revenue has failed to tell them how much their

About 1.5 million taxpayers should have been sent "statements of account" requesting payment of half their 1996-97 tax liability by the end of this month. However, according to accountants many people have not received the demands for tax, and even if they have, the demands are wrong.

Those who have not received the demands will still have to pay the tax. Martin Donn, personal tax partner at Blick Rothenberg, warns all taxpayers to look carefully at their statements of account, as a proportion have been incorrectly calculated.

The amount to be paid is assessed on the previous year's tax liability. The tax is due in two payments - one at the end of this month, and one in July. Maurice Fitzpatrick, of Chantrey Vellacott, the accountants. said: "I would urge anyone who thinks they could be due to pay a bill to contact their tax office as soon

Mr Fizpatrick points out that the statements of account may also not be accurate because some accountants have still to finalise the 1995-96 accounts. However, he said: "You still have to pay. You are not absolved from any tax liability."

Those who do receive a statement of account can choose not to pay the entire amount, if they believe their tax liability will be less than in previous years. However, they risk paying interest if this proves not to

Self-assessment will eventually affect about eight million taxpayers. including the self-employed, pariners, and others with complicated

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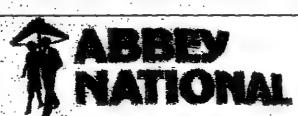
CAROLINE MERRELL

Abbey aims to attract float bonuses

The Abbey National is stepping up the battle for the estimated £20 billion that will be released into the economy this year after building society and life insurance company floats. The bank has raised savings rates by up to 0.75 per cent to try to attract millions of those looking forward to average payouts of £1,100 this year as the Halifax, Alliance & Leicester, Woolwich, Bristol & West, Northern Rock and Norwich Union convert

And the second s

Abbey suffered a big out-flow of savings after it took over the National & Provincial last year. About £600 million of cash was moved out of the bank in the weeks immediately following the takeover as former members of National & Provincial placed their savings with building societies offering



higher rates of interest. By raising rates the Abbey is hoping to attract back some of this money. It declined to say how much money had been switched, but said that 100,000 of the 640,000 who had opted for shares rather than cash had sold their holdings. The improved rates will help many of Abbey's remaining 12 million savers. Ambrose McGinn, director of retail savings, said: "This move will both reward our existing investors and attract new investors currently with other banks and building societies.

The biggest increases are for savers with the most to invest who are willing to keep the money with the society for a long time. For instance, tax-

WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth exempt special savings account savers, with £9,000 saved or to save, see a rise from 6.4 per cent to 6.7 per cent, while the rate on one year of its three-year stepped bonus bond has been increased by 0.75 per cent to 6.75 per cent. The rates on the nore popular instant access account and 90-day account have been increased only 0.1 per cent for those with big savings. For example, the rate on the instant saver account has risen from 3.15 per cent to 3.25 per cent for those with

more than £10,000 to invest. The other societies say that they have no immediate plans to follow suit. They note that they raised their rates this month in response to the increase in base rates at the end of last year.

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Football's Italian job

t comes to something when Juvent-us, perhaps the most famous football club in the world, wants to take a listing on the London stock market because the Italian authorities are less than keen. The problem is that Juve, which is controlled by the Agnelli family of Fiat fame, does not have the required three-year record of profits to be allowed to join the Milan exchange. And despite having a turnover of 115 billion lire (£44 million), last season it managed to lose 14 billion lire. The economics of Juve rather mirror

those of our largest football clubs, such as Manchester United, Arsenal and Newcastle United. TV and sponsorship income is now dwarfing the amount the club gets from the supporters who come through the turnstiles. However, only for a handful of clubs is the entire income enough to cover the costs of buying the sort of players who appear on the pitch and to pay their spiralling wages.
If Premiership clubs are going to spend
[15] million for Alan Shearer and offer Guiseppe Signori a reputed £2 milliona-year salary, then the pot of gold that is supposed to come with pay-per-view TV is going to have to be pretty damn exciting to balance the books.

Last week's collapse of Millwall is a salutory lesson. The club was floated in 1989 when it was in the top flight. It was relegated, but built an all-seater stadium which could accommodate the crowds it would get when it went back up. To help to pay for this, there would be pop concerts, boxing fights and other events. But Casis did not want to play in New Cross. And Millwall was relegated

The property of the second sec





JASON NISSÉ

again, ending up with 44 players (12 more than Arsenal). El0 million debts and losses of E3 million a year. David Buchler, who having been involved with Tottenham Hotspur and Barnet knows a thing or two about troubled clubs, is currently trying to sort out the mess and refloat the Lions of southeast London.

Two of the recently floated clubs -Southampton and Sunderland - have real prospects of being relegated from the Premiership this season, as does Coventry City, which is eyeing a float. While the combination of good property assets and decent management should keep these from the fate of Miliwall, investors have to be aware of the danger.

But at least in floated clubs, there is the reassurance of a prospectus and a relatively liquid market. The massive gains in recent weeks have been in the shares traded on Ofex and on a matched-bargain basis — such as Arsenal, Everton, Liverpool and Manchester City. Take Aston Villa. In the

summer it restructured its capital so that there was only one class of share. At that point, shares were £450 each, valuing the club at £44.5 million. Every month Albert E Sharp, the broker, auctions a block of shares in Villa. In January the entire block was bought by one investor for £1,200 a share. Since then an offer of £1,650 has been made for these shares, which would value the club at a staggering £149 million. Expect an even higher price for the February auction.

This boom has been fuelled by unrealistic expectations of a rosy future and a shortage of stock. But calling the peak of the market is dangerous. Joseph Lewis, the catering and currency billionaire whose wealth has taken him from the East End to the Bahamas, last week took a £40 million bet on Rangers. His investment is being used to fund a hotel at Ibrox, which is not exactly in the nicest part of Glasgow, and values the dub at £160 million.

ewis's cohorts believe Rangers can be floated in two to three years with da value of twice that and are hunting for other clubs in which to invest. There is talk that he may be involved in proposals from Michael Tabor, the racehorse owner, to invest £30 million in West Ham United and he is known to have made approaches to Arsenal.

The real test will come with the Newcastle United float, Timed for April, it will easily value the club at £200 million. This will be five times turnover and about 20 times operating profits before buying overpriced footballers.

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TESSA RATES UP TO

Sara McConnell on a disputed case of freehold purchase

When leaseholders' rights to buy are flouted by a landlord

leasehold flats in from their landlord after dis-

less than a quarter of the price quoted to the leaseholders. This was a clear breach of the rules governing leasehold-ers' rights of first refusal when their freehold is up for sale. But Rubypoint, the company which bought the freehold, is refusing to sell at the same price for which it bought, saying the leaseholders had failed to exercise their right to do this within the set times laid

Stella Evans and her fellow flat-owners received a notice from Rubypoint in January 1992, telling them that the company was planning to buy the freehold of the Victorian conversion block for £4,500

conversion block for £4,500 and asking if they wanted to buy the freehold at this price. The leaseholders rejected the offer, because they could not afford to pay nearly £650 each. They discovered subsequently that Rubypoint had bought the freehold for just £1,050 from the previous freeholder. Miss Evans said: "If we had been told the true price we would certainly have exerwe would certainly have exercised our right to buy."
Robert Enticott of the solici-

tors George Ide, Philips, for the leaseholders, said: "It is our contention that the majority of leaseholders would have responded if given the true price and that they did not exercise their rights because they were given false information.

Nicholas Hyam and Gary Mills, the directors of Rubypoint in 1992, were jailed at Croydon Crown Court last summer for a total of nearly five years on charges of deception and theft from leaseholders, unrelated to the disputed price of the freehold of one of their properties. This week Mr Hyam lost his appeal in the High Court.

Rubypoint is listed at Companies House as Tony Maio. Mr Maio, who also owns a garage, has so far refused to take responsibility for what the leaseholders' solicitors allege is deliberate fraudulent misrepresentation to out the leaseholders off buying their freehold.

He declined to comment this week, saying: "It is nothing to do with me. I wasn't a director at the time. You need to talk to Mr Hyam. And it's none of your business."

Mr Enticott rejects the argument of Mr Maio's solicitor that the leaseholders have forfeited their rights because they did not exercise them soon enough. Mr Enticott told Mr Maio two months ago in a letter: "it would appear that a false statement of fact was made in the original notice,



that it was made without belief in its truth, that it was intended that our clients would act to their detriment upon the statement, that they did so act and that consequently they have suffered damage.

Mr Enticott says he has received no explanation from Rubypoint for the purchase at a price lower than that quoted to the leaseholders. Mr Maio says he is still willing to sellthe freehold but at its current. price, which would almost certainly be much higher than Rubypoint bought it for. The leaseholders are now deciding whether to sue Rubypoint for

The Law and Leaseholders' Rights

Since 1987, leaseholders have had the right of first refusal if the freehold of their block is up for sale. But this rule was flouted widely by landlords because there were no sanctions for ignoring it. Freeholds changed hands frequently at auction without leaseholders' knowledge and many flatowners have found themselves on the receiving end of large

service charge bills and pro-posals for major works from their new landlords. New laws came into force last October as part of the 1996

Housing Act which make it a criminal offence for landlords not to offer tenants the right of first refusal. Under the Act. ■ Landlords wanting to sell

must serve a notice on leaseholders offering them first chance to buy. If you receive a notice from the seller, you have up to two months for a majority of leaseholders in the block to respond

Some landlords claim they

potential buyer to serve a notice on leaseholders, as Rubypoint did. But the Court of Appeal ruled 18 months ago that this was not an alternative and did not remove the seller's responsibility to offer Jeaseholders the freehold. If lease holders receive a notice from a person or company proposing to buy the freehold of your block, a majority must re-spond within 28 days that you

■ If a landlord sells behind leaseholders' backs, leaseholders now have up to four

want to be served with notices

can get away with allowing the months, not two, from when they find out they have a new landlord to serve a notice on him. He must reveal how much he paid for the freehold and explain to leaseholders they have the right to buy. months, not three, to buy. Previously, landlords were not obliged to reveal what they had paid for freeholds.

> Lesseholders have the right to buy at the price at which it was sold to the new landford. Freeholds must not change hands at a lower price than that leastholders were offered until a year has passed:

'London property could see a rise of 15%'

UBS is expecting house prices to rise by about 15 per cent in London this year because of the sharp fall in the number of people with negative equity. Overall, the bank expects house prices to rise by about 10-12 per cent over the year, helped by inflation and rising wages.

According to its calculations, the number of households with negative equity fell by 129,000 in the fourth quarter of 1996 to 465,000 from 594,000. The people have escaped the negative equity trap over the past 12 months.
UBS found that the av-

erage amount of negative equity had fallen in the fourth quarter to £4,100 from £4,200 in the third negative equity fell again in the fourth quarter to £I.9 billion, a £600 million decline on the third quar-ter total of £2.5 billion.

However, UBS emphasises that the number of people who have insuffi-cient equity in their property to move still remains high, at 1.8 million. Insufficient equity is where than £5,000 equity in their to finance a move in the owner-occupied sector.
The number with insuf-

ficient equity still represents one in five of all and will continue to act as

a drag on the market.

UBS also claims that more than a third of households with negative equity have a difference of value of their property and more than a E10,000 short-

fall.

UBS believes that a hard core of households with negative equity will remain. Properties that will restain particularly hard to sell will be one-bedroom. and studio flats.

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KER & FRIEDLANDER

444

Heroic challenge saves the day

Obert Anthony and Anthony decided to take the matter to court. This followed an exchange of letters the heroes to each one of the nation's il million savers. For too long building societies have been able to promise that the rate on a new

account would be imbeatable and then to break this pledge. Customers who dared to complain could be easily fobbed off. In the Norwich County Court this month, Mr Anthony and Judge Horrocks may have ended this underhand

practice (see page 35). At the same time, Mr Anthony, a science teacher, did what each of us dreams of doing. teaching a financial institu-

While others would have shrugged off their irritation for truth, Judge Horrocks begged to differ.

He was also rightly unimpressed by the society's mis-

in which the Norwich and Peterborough called the much-reduced return on its Tessa "very reasonable". Reasonable in whose eyes.

one wonders. In court, the Norwich and Peterborough described the phrase "very competitive" as n "mere puff", without contractual relevance or legal effect. In other words, the society admitted that its aim was to entice investors, rather than to pay a better-thanaverage rate.

Fortunately for the society's 20,000 other Tessa savers, and anyone who believes that a building society should have a strict regard



COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH Personal Finance Editor

guided attempt to compare its rates favourably with those of high street banks. whose rates seldom rival those of the building societies. There is too much selective use of statistics in the societies' sales talk. This is a habit that they have caught from the unit trust industry. where dates are frequently manipulated to make middling performance data seem dazzling. The whole pretence is then made plausible by the

deft use of bar charts. In the

same way, larger societies like to contrast their rates with those of their peers rather than with the often superior offers of their small-Judge Horrocks ruled that

a savings account is like any other consumer product. where the buyer is entitled to rely on the description on the packet.

Some building societies will now be looking for every disregard the Horrocks judgment. They

the importance of moderating their language.

Taxing debut

THE self-assessment debacle may be coming to pass sooner than we predicted.

On January 31, 1.5 million people will have to pay a bill for half their 1996-97 tax liability (see page 35). Thousands have yet to receive these first self-assessment demands. But they will still be obliged to pay interest on the unpaid tax even though they have no idea of what they owe. This means that they will be paying a penalty of 8.5 per cent for the taxman's inefficiency. The Revenue refused to say whether these enalties will be waived. What a sorry way to begin the greatest reform to income tax since its invention.



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War widows gain small victory on pensions rights

Street will know, a war widow who falls in love faces a hazardous choice. In Granada's television series, the dilemma which confronted Clare Palmer was whether to live with Des Barnes, and so forfeit her war widow's pension, or to renounce romance. and settle for financial sec-

In the event, Clare decided her man meant more than herpension and acted accordingly. For real-life Clare Palmers, for whom such choices turn out badly, there is now the prospect of a better future, thanks to a decision made last week by Lord Mackay of Ardbrecknish, Minister for War Pensions at the Department of Social Security (DSS).

After a long-running cam-paign by the War Widows Association, Lord Mackay decided to simplify the rules so that the DSS pension would be restored to all war widows who had ceased living with their partners. "He hopes the will come into effect by April this year," said a DSS spokesman.

At present, war widows forfeit both their DSS and Forces Family Pensions if they remarry or live with a man as usband and wife.-War widows who began to cohabit but then ceased to live with their partners face little prospect of neir DSS pensions being restored. The setting up of the Benefit Fraud Line last year has made discovery more

likely.

According to recent DSS guidelines, living in the same household and sharing ex-So it's not penses would count as evi-dence of cohabitation.

conservati

investors

Government decision offers

a glimmer of

hope after long campaign, says

Jenny Grove

However, the absence of a sexual relationship "does not necessarily prove that a couple are not living as husband and

Those who cohabited before April 1993 may have their DSS pensions restored, subject to a means test. Those who began living with their partners after that date were given one year's pension to pay off their entitle-ment and so have no such chance, whatever their financial circumstances.

Despite Lord Mackay's concession, Baroness Strange, president of the War Widows Association, says the move is only a small step in the right



Palmer: gave up pension

One war widow who agrees

is Caroline Anderson. Mrs Anderson's husband, Squad-ron Leader Neil Anderson, was killed in August 1990 in a Tornado accident.

regardless of future marital status", she told the House of

Lords last week.

Before the accident, frequent moves and the demands of service life had meant little chance of Mrs Anderson building a career of her own. A war widow's children receive a pension as long as they are in full-time education. Mrs Anderson's eldest son left school 15 months ago. Now aged 17, he hopes to go to college and university but has lost his pension.

Mrs Anderson said that pension rules condemn her to perpetual widowhood, adding:
"By definition, aircrew are fairly young, so the rules condemn young widows to be the single parents that every-

body criticises.

Neil spent 19 years in the Air Force and he contributed why shouldn't that pension his Forces Family Pension be paid for life?"

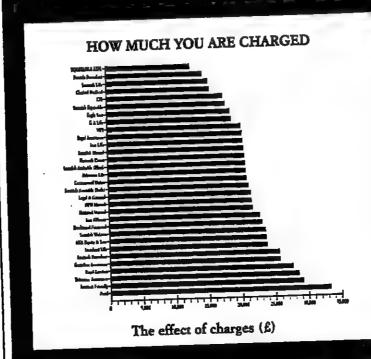
Major General Peter Bonnet, who heads the Officers' Pensions Society, said: "We're campaigning for all military widows' and widowers' pensions — not just war widows to be paid for life.

That was what Sir Michael Bett recommended in 1995 when he carried out an independent review of the Armed Forces Occupational Pensions Scheme at the Ministry of Defence's request. We're still awaiting the ministry's



Caroline Anderson says she now faces perpetual widowhood

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funds have already felt the

squeeze from this approach.

Last October Bardays merged

its UK and US investment

management divisions to form

Barciays Global Investors.

sacked most of its fund manag-

ers and instituted a new quant-

based "advanced active" style.

Old Mutual, a South African

investment house, has also

applied the technique to its US

and Japan unit trusts, and

Invesco is expected to adopt a

its merger with AIM, a US

explains, quant management uses traditional stock-picking

tools such as cashflow to price

and dividend yields. But it also looks at other "signals", such as

before the com-

puters took over, but has

lost 2.11 per cent

has pushed it from 25th in its group to 95th.

Similarly, the

Japan fund has over the past

cent to 20.33 per cent. Woodlock says

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Heat is on active fund managers

Gavin Lumsden looks at how investment companies hope to eradicate the risky human touch

Tund managers such as Nicola Horlick, the mil-lion-pound superwoman suspended by Deutsche Mor-gan Grenfell (DMG) this month, could become an increasingly rare breed in the brave new world of investment. Investment companies are increasingly impatient with their highly paid staff either getting the market wrong and losing them money, or defect-ing to rivals and leaving them in the lurch. Instead, they are turning to techniques such as index tracking and quantitative management, which aim to eradicate the risk of using temperamental human beings. The argument in favour of index tracking is almost irresistible. Over the long term, the

direction of the stock markets,

as measured by indices such as

the FT-SE 100 and FT-SE All-

Share, is remorselessly up-

wards. However, most active

fund managers fail to do better

than the indices. Why not, the

argument goes, buy every share in the index and hang on

as your money grows? Certainly, this passive approach has proved popular

with investors as it has combined above-average performance with lower charges. According to Virgin Direct, only seven out of 74 UK Peps have beaten the All-Share in the past five years, and most of these were tracker funds. Rowan Gormley, the compa-

ny's managing director, be-

lieves the ructions at DMG

underline the beauty of a tracker's simplicity: "Is Nicola Horlick worth £1 million? If she is so important and she can just march out of the door, doesn't it show that it is not good enough to find the right company and choose the right fund, which is complicated enough. You have to follow the individual career of the fund manager as well." The simplicity also appeals to the newcomers to the financial services industry, such as Virgin. Another example is

Guardian Direct, the insurer, which this week launched its first investment product, the Top 100 tracker Pep. Investors can put in lump sums of between £1,000 and £6,000 or save £30 to £500 per month in a fund investing in all the well-established blue chips of the



The hope is that tracker funds will be as unshakeable as inspector Morse and Sergeant Lewis.

	Based or	a EI,000 izvestr	nent (offer to bid)
Name	1 year	3 years	Duration of investment 5 years Charges
FT-SE All Stame Index Virgin UK Index Tracking Garbriore UV Index Legal & General UK Index Alcovich LIK Index Tracking ING UK Ind Thickon Old Mutual UK All Share Mir Inc Old Mutual UK All Share Mir Inc	1,150.47 1,148.52 1,148.87 1,104.43 1,091.00 1,077.25 1,080.82	1,310.89 1,283.30 1,230.83 1,211.61 1,196.42 1,178.05	2,001.18 1% arisust, 0.5% and to 0.5% arrust 0.5% arrust 0.5% arrust 1,801.50 0.5% arrust (Sichel Tracker Pep) 1,801.72 9% (3% Pep) initial, 0.7% arrust 1% arrust 1% arrust
Source: HSW ·			

FT-SE 100 and get the tax benefits of the Pep. It rubs shoulders with PT-SE 100 trackers from companies such as Barclays and Direct Line. But Steve Abbot, marketing

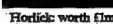
director at Legal & General, says if you are serious about tracking you should use funds

that follow the FT-SE All-Share. He says: "The whole. rationale of tracking is to take away the subjective judgment and say 'I want to buy the whole market. If you select the top 100 companies you are effectively making a judgment that large companies are going to do

better than smaller companies which might not be the case." Strangely, tracker funds never quite live up to their name. As the table shows, not one of the All-Share trackers actually

case), which is then compounded by the effect of charges. For instance, in the past 12 months £1,000 in the Virgin UK tracker would have become

tracker despite



as a Pep) and a 0.75 per cent antheir approach. Virgin's higher annual fee could be because it has opted for full replication of the index, buying all 920 stocks. This is expensive because it entails many small deals in illiquid stocks at the bottom of the index. L&G buys only half of the stocks. Trackers work best in mature markets such as the UK, US and Europe. This gives active managers more of a chance in less developed markets such as Latin America and the Far East, but how long will this last? As emerging markets adopt the standards and practices of the core markets, they will start to generate the tor- economics."

a director buying shares in his own company.

James Woodlock, BGI's head of quants, says the company has no place for "star" stock pickers. It just needs consultants to keep the black boxes running and dealers to carry out the deals: "A black box matched the performance of the FT-SE All-Share, pound for doesn't hire a PR consultant." pound over one, three and five However, the "advanced active" style has yet to make its mark at Barclays. Over the ears. This is because all funds have a "tracking error" (0.25 per cent in Legal & General's past three months most of its

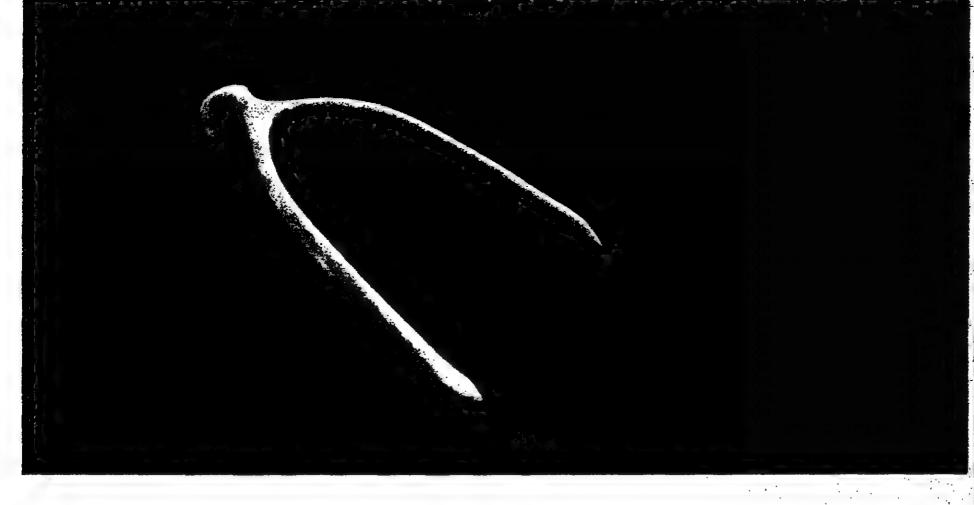
unit trusts have slipped against their competitors (see table). This is particularly marked in its European Growth unit £1.148.52, £44 more than Legal trust. It grew 1.21 per cent in the & General's UK

a i per cent agement fee, twice that of L&G. Virgia also charges a 0.5 per cent fee if you leave the fund in the first five years. Iron-ically, one of the highest chargers is Morgan Grenfell, presumably relying on its an active fund manager to charge a 5 per cent initial fee (3 per cent if held

Horlick worth flm?

ly and adds that it is too early to make fair comnual fee. Trackers also differ in parisons because the conversion to the new style was not complete until the new year. Advanced active has outper formed the index by 2.2 per cent a year since 1992, says BGI.

Until the picture is clearer there is a stay of execution on active fund managers. Bill McQuaker, quantitative strate-gist at BZW Securities, believes his scientific colleagues are unlikely to overwhelm their active counterparts. "It is in-conceivable," he says, "that the whole market is going to go quant. If it did the smart money would go back behind fund managers looking at



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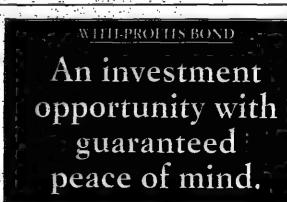
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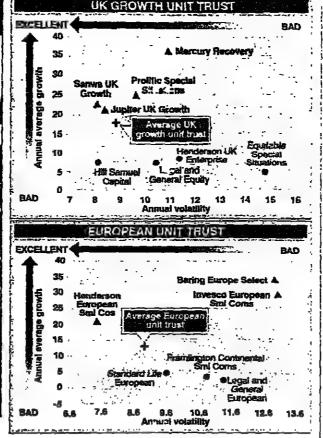
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The principle behind investing in unit trusts is to reduce risk. Nobody wants to put all of their eggs in one basket, neither do they want to put all of their money in one share. Unit trusts buy lots of shares and spread the risk. It some fall to do well it. should not compromise the entire fund, the theory goes.

But what if the fund manager gets it wrong? What happens if he is incompetent or a: criminal? What if the company goes belly-up after the disclosure of massive exposure tounheard of securities in the Far East? Then you might wish you had put your faith, and your money, in more than

But there is a simple way that private investors can reduce their reliance on one manager. They can buy a fund-of-funds unit trust that invests in other unit trusts, once again spreading the risk. Buying a fund of funds is a

bit like constructing your own fantasy team of fund managers, only it is cheaper because switching between funds is, free of capital gains tax within

There are two types of these funds: those restricted to one company's range of funds, and

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Fund of funds helps investors who want to spread risk even further, says Gavin Lumsden

entire universe of unit trusts, more than 1,600 in all.

Naturally enough, most companies offering fund of funds prefer to invest in their own in-house range. They can be very successful. The Britannia Managed Portfolio, for instance, has more than doubled a £1,000 investment to £2,103 over the past five years by investing in ten of its unit trusts. Sun Alliance has also flown its flag well with its Portfolio fund of funds adding

E840 to £1,000 over five years. Not all of them are good value, however. The Sun Alliance Campbell Harrison Crucible unit trust would have lost El50 had you put in El,000 last January. The fund is one of six broker trusts that Sun Alliance operates, in which fund selection and marketing is

outsourced to an independent financial adviser, in this case Campbell Harrison of Shel field. Sun Alliance says it is closing the fund and will not be supporting any more brothose that can select from the ker-managed trusts in future.

policy?

Re-mortgaging?

choose from more than 1,600 unit trusts across all the management groups. However, it does face the problem of double charging. Investors pay a 5 per cent initial fee and a 1 per cent annual management fee to get into the Portfolio fund, and then pay for the charges of the underlying funds. Mr Miller concedes that this is a problem but says the company strikes bargains when it buys into funds in bulk.

The fund was not alone. Last year 22 of 77 fund of funds

failed to make money for their

investors, according to HSW,

a statistics provider. The fund

of funds is no panacea and you

still need to take care choosing

Bernie Cornfeld, the US

financier, launched one of the

first fund of funds but was

later jailed when his company,

Investment Overseas Services,

You should pay particularly close attention to how the unit

trusts are chosen. If the picker

is incompetent then all you

have done is displace the risk.

not reduce it. And as Tim

Miller, marketing director of Portfolio Fund Managers,

points out, even good fund

management companies have

companies specialising in fund

finids. As such it is able to

their duff funds.

from whom you buy.

collapsed.

The Portfolio Fund of Funds narrowly beats the Britannia fund over five years, coming top of the sector with a return of £2,110 on a £1,000 lump sum. Next month it launches a European fund of funds.

Portfolio picks its funds using information from Fund Research, a unit trust analysis company. By talking to City fund managers it then determines how much they are investing in different countries. It then chooses 15 to 20 funds that match the asset allocation consensus.

Premier Fund Managers of Guildford takes a more systematic approach in hs Selector fund of funds, which it runs in association with Scottish Widows. It follows the asset allocation of the average

pension fund and picks funds by analysing their performance in relation to their volatility. A highly volatile fund will rise and fall erratically, whereas one with low volatility will plot a smooth course on a chart.

According to Jonathan Fry, a director at Premier, volatility is not necessarily bad. Although a more volatile fund is a riskier investment, the risk may be justified if rewarded by excellent performance.

To begin his selection he draws a line on a chart starting at zero growth and low volatility and finishing at high volatility and high growth (see charts). Broadly speaking, he buys funds that lie above the line (triangles). Those that fall below he sells

or puts under review (circles). The line rises sharply at first but levels off as returns diminish as volatility increases.

In looking at the UK growth chart it is apparent that the Equitable Special Situations is blowing a particularly large raspberry at the moment. It combines a poor three-month performance with volatile behaviour. Not much better are Henderson UK Enterprise and Legal & General Equity.

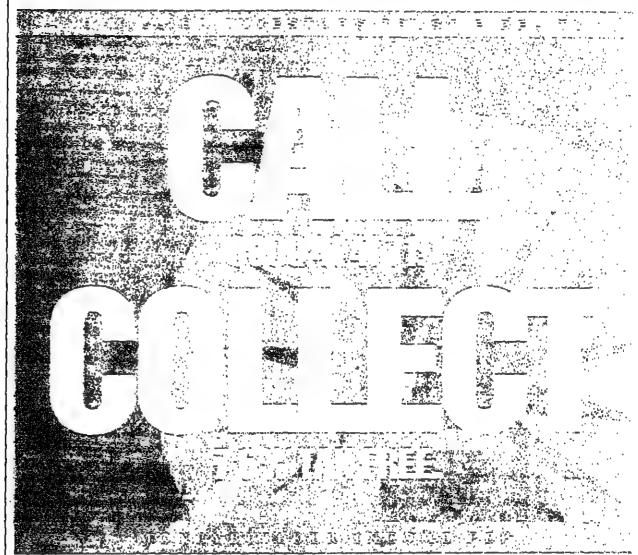
By contrast. Mercury Re-covery has justified its relatively high volatility with the sector's best performance. However, the best deals are Sanwa UK Growth and Jupiter UK Growth. Although their growth has been modest compared with Mercury, as the chart demonstrates, it has been more reliable. Similarly, Henderson European Small Companies is achieving good returns more consistently than the average European unit trust. Mr Fry says this is a useful tool for investors but urges caution. A fund can increase in volatility in the

boost long-term performance. "You don't want to get carried away with measuring risk." he says. "But people should be aware that performance is not everything. Ideal ly, what they want is good, consistent performers as far up the top left corner of the charts

short term even if its manager

gets a bet right, which will

The Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds agrees and is proposing that all unit trusts are risk-graded.



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Martin Waller starts a five-stop tour of the Stock Exchange as

How you can find your way around the stock market

Some eight million people will receive a free handout of shares from the Halifax Building Society this summer. Many of them, those with mortgages with the Halifax, will have been more used to their money flowing the other way. Four other huge financial institutions, the Alliance & Leicester. Woolwich and Northern Rock building societies and the insurance group Norwich Union, will also float on the stock market by the same method - a direct distribution of free shares to lenders and borrowers - this

هكذا من الأصل

So a total of 17 million new private shareholders will spring into existence this year. That is not to say that 17 million people will suddenly become investors for the first time: there is enormous overlap in the memberships of the four. Some may have a morigage, say with the Woolwich, a few hundred pounds or more in accounts at the Halifax and Alliance & Leicester and perhaps an endowment

BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO THE STOCK **MARKET**



policy with Norwich Union. Such. lucky folk will benefit four times over. Some may already be familiar with share ownership, through the wave of popular privatisation stocks of the 1980s, kicked off by British Telecom. This tripled the number of private shareholders, currently standing at 9.5 million and a little below its 11 million

Despite this, the importance of private investors has been shrinking. In the three decades from the mid-1960s the proportion of the market held directly by individuals shrank from 54 per cent to around 20 per cent. This was not necessarily the result of private individuals selling out; put simply, the City institutions took a bigger chunk of the shares coming to the market, in the

form of shares issued by existing quoted companies and of new businesses seeking a stock market listing. It is impossible to say how many new

investors, those without privatisation

stocks or whatever, will be created by those four market debuts this year, and the ones that will follow. But that number must run into millions. These are people who have never held a dividend cheque in their hands, who have never needed to find out what their shares are worth. They may never, poor benighted souls, have had the pleasure of reading the financial ages. This five-part series is mainly for them; more sophisticated investors might learn something, too. After 20 years in business journalism, I had thought I was well up with all of the information that will follow. Surprising how little you know, when you start to put it into words. We start with the calendar of a financial year and the main reason for holding shares -

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF A COMPANY

M ost, but not all, com-panies have financial years that run from January l to December 31. The Halifax. for some peculiar reason, ends its linancial year on January

Assume a December year end. So the figures for that year would be prepared in the early months of the new year. and issued in the spring. Let us say they are published on March 27. They will contain a dividend promise, couched something like "a final pay-ment of 20p, making a total for the year of 30p" and a divi-dend pay date a couple of months hence, which is when you can expect a cheque.

There must come a stage, clearly, after which new purchasers of the shares are not entitled to the payment al-ready announced. After a few weeks the shares are said to go ex-dividend, and in newspapers' displays of share prices the price is followed by the letters "xd". Logically, the price should fall by the amount of dividend new inves-

There is no tax payable by quoted takes into account tax the Exchequer levies on the payment. But investors not paying the standard rate

should see my note about tax.

A gap of two or three months between announcement and payment is normal. but some companies can be rather mean and make you wait longer. If you think this unreasonable, go along to the annual general meeting and say so to the directors.

A few weeks after the full-

us, and the cycle restarts. as the preliminary announce-ment, is released to the Stock An irritation of most com-Exchange and reported in the panies having the same year

end is that preliminary state-ments and interims arrive in a huge splurge, in the spring and autumn. Fifty businesses must give a date for the annual meeting, allowing shareholdmay report on the same day. ers at least three weeks' notice. with yours relegated to a brief Next in the investors' diary is the interim figures, covering pages. Busy reporting seasons the period to end-June, and notification of the halfway dividend. Publication might are a trial for investors. City and the financial press - and they are getting worse as more be in September, with divicompanies realign to a Dedend payment again a couple of months off. By then the

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Cautious approach is best for your financial health

defined by the stock market, presents investors with a problem in that it is really a collection of vaguely related companies whose activities range from the manufacture of condoms to the provision of nursing homes.

Company size is also diverse, with the smaller players, such as Premier Health, capitalised at below I million, and Smith & Nephew weighing in at nearly £2 billion. A sectoral approach is clearly little use. Instead, investors must pick and mix cautiously.

Currently the private hospipitals of the US, currently bidding jointly Healthcare, the medical insurer, for BMI, the UK's second largest private hospital com-pany, has made no secret of its

pany, has made no secret of its acquisition plans.

Community Hospitals Group (CHG), the £125 million private hospital and nursing home company is a hot favourite for takeover. Its share price, close to its year high of 369.5p, reflects the speculation. Alan



Pilgrim, chief executive of CHG, says business is improving at its ten private hospitals private medical insurance policies, more referrals from

The nursing home story is not so rosy. TC Group, formed last year from a merger between Takare and Court Cavendish. issued a profits warning this week and several other companies have been forced into fensive mergers.

Mr Pilgrim, whose company has 15 nursing homes, says: "The Government's care in the community reforms have led to social services delaying referrals to nursing homes. This has cut into profits. We have no plans to build any more." But Paul Saper of Laing & Buisson, the healthcare analyst

says companies such as West-minster Healthcare and Care UK have bucked the trend by developing homes geared towards post-operation recupera-tion and the treatment of psychiatric disorders, rather than relying purely on care of the elderly for income. Quality Care Homes, too.

managed to post a 17 per cent increase in pre-tax profits this week, to £5.6 million, although it gave warning that wages than fees. Many big companies strength of sterling, with many generating earnings in the US. Meanwhile, UniChem's defeat in the battle for Lloyds Chemists this week has not damaged its long-term prospects. The company is still trading close to its 273.5p year high share price and intends to expand from 460 pharmacies to

MATTHEW WALL

around 1.000.

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millions vote to swap their mutuality for the market



Many millions will be keeping a close eye on share prices for the first time in 1997 as financial institutions come to market

HEDIVIDENDS OF A STOCK MARKET INVESTMENT

These are twice-yearly payments by companies to their shareholders in return for investing. This is just like . the annual interest you receive on your balances in bank and building society accounts, except that the rate you are getting on your shares may be

rather better — or it may not. After the first six months of the financial year and at the end of it, companies are required to produce a profit statement saying how well they did during that time. Once all charges, costs and tax

have been paid on the profits made, a final figure is left, known as attributable profit. .This is divided between the company's coffers and its shareholders. The dividend

element is split between all the shares the company has is-sued, and comes out as a figure in pence.

Obviously, the higher the quoted share price, the higher the dividend, because the level of payment helps the City to set that price. As an example,

British Telecom is expected to

pay a total of 20p in dividends

this financial year; the shares only hands out a third, the are now worth about £4. cover is three and it is three

Typically, between a third and a half of such profit goes Two dividends are paid a year. After the first half or out in the form of dividends. interim figures, a stage pay-ment is made. This is normal-The relationship between profits and dividend is expressed ly lower than that made after as a number, known as dividend cover. If a company ends the year end. the year with El million in attributable profit and hands half to shareholders, the divi-

In next week's Beginner's Guide to the Stock Market we will look at the mechanics dend cover is two, and the of owning and dealing in payment is said to be twice shares, and how to keep track covered, ie, it could have been paid twice over. If the com-

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Losing out on bonus payouts

eties came under fire more members were told that they were to be excluded from bonus payments averaging El.200. One Halifax member stands to lose shares worth more than £4,000 because of wrong advice from his branch.

Engaged and unhelpful helplines have caused confusion and anger, particularly among those trying to establish their right to the shares of relatives who have died. In at least one case, branch staff have given misleading information although they are not supposed to talk about payouts. The rules on successors' rights to free shares are some of the most complex in the

daunting transfer documents. Government intervention nearly two years ago forced societies to relent on their hardline stance of refusing to pay bonuses to relatives of dead members where the member had been the first named on a joint account and the second named had not been a member in his or her own right.

After an outcry from widows excluded from Cheltenham & Gloucester payouts after the death of their hus-

through Parliament by Douglas French, MP for Gloucester.

The Building Societies (Joint Account Holders) Act 1995 preserves the right of secondaccounts to qualify for bonuses for which a dead first-named member would have qualified. Previously societies had claimed only first-named account holders were members and their rights died with them.

But it is still up to societies to set qualifying dates. These exclude many who would otherwise have qualified but also appear to be a source of confusion to the societies.

Jeff Jeffery, a Halifax mem ber, was concerned that he had not received anything from the society to say that he was entitled to receive his late mother's shares although the society had confirmed that he qualified for a variable bonus in his own right.

His mother died on June 9. 1995, leaving Mr Jeffery as her sole beneficiary. Probate on his mother's estate was resolved by October of that year. The balance on the account would have entitled Mr Jeffery to more than £4,000 of shares.



Poor communication will keep Jeff Jeffery and his wife Ann from a Halifax handout

According to the Halifax's transfer document, shares would go to a deceased memben's successor as long as the society was told of a death after November 25, 1994, and before the date of the flotation in July 1997. But Mr Jeffery received no reply to his letter to the conversion information office asking why he had had no

confirmation of his right to the shares. His branch said the qualifying date was not Nov-ember 25, 1994, but December 12, 1995. This was the date of a. press announcement on the rules on successors' rights.

Only after The Times inter that Mr Jeffery did not qualify account because he had transferred the money from his mother's account into his own. . He should have been told to had neglected to tell him this aithough it had been advised by head office to inform members that this was the safest way of

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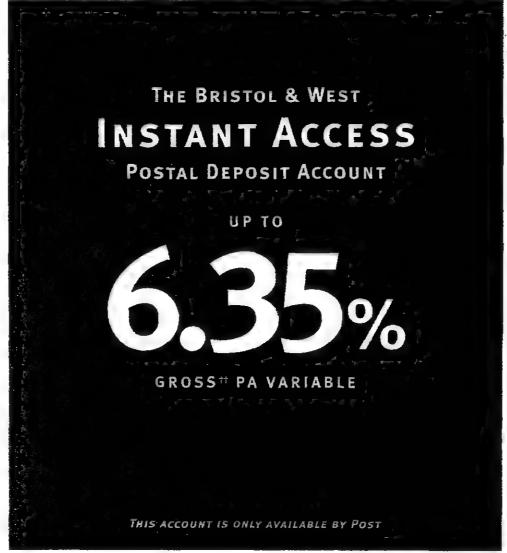
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PIA's tough stance gives hope to pension victims

when it emerged that a City watchdog is getting tough with tardy insurance

Insurers suspected of dragging their feet are being summoned to a series of secret meetings by the Personal Investment Authority (PIA). This new tough stance by the PIA has been prompted by the concerns of its chief executive, will remain unresolved at the

end of this year. The worst offenders are believed to have been given. until December to process; their top-priority cases. The meetings are at senior man-agement level. Among those on the list of interviewees are: executives from Prudential Pearl, Legal & General, TSB

and Co-operative Insurance.

These have some of the biggest backlogs of cases. sources have predicted that many cases will still be out

insurers have been told that double the number of staff working on the cases. Although the PIA has been unwilling to comment on these talks it is clear that Ms Rowe Pension companies were supposed to have completed reviews of all top priority

58,000 priority cases have been investigated. There are tims mationwide the Prudential Britain's biggest insurer, had agreed to estimated cost of £800,000

schedule. The cases include shop staff advised to buy

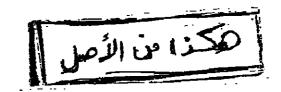
personal pensions worth a fraction of their company

schemes. According to PIA figures, only 7,000 out of

after reaching an agreement with the GMB general union in return for an end to litigation. The union has instigated legal action against a number of companies, including Legal wants the process speeded up. & General and TSB, over the misselling of pensions.

MARIANNE CURPHEY

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of the confusing rules on the Woolwich and Halifax flotations

know your rights as successor

CIYEN the combision mat may be caused in-case sorts, as that of Mr Jeffery (see concessing, Weekend Money takes a look as the rights of successors at both the Walface and the Woolwich.

The Halifax

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If you are the second named mem ber on a joint account and the first-named holder dies, you will qualify for the shares on the account as long as the account itself still qualifies. Accounts with at least £100 in them on November 25,094 and still open when the society floats in July will qualify for a basic payout of 200 shares worth an estimated £840. Second-named holders on accounts open for more than two years and with balances of £1,000 or more from November 25, 1994, will also get a variable payout based on the lower of two balances on November 25, 1994, and February 24, 1997.

If a member dies, leaving an account in his or her sole name, the free shares will be inherited by whoever is named as successor. But successors who have not been Halifax savers in their own right for at least two years will get only the basic

If they have more than one account they will get only one basic payout. They will not get the variable payout even if the account qualifies for one, Successors who have had their own Halifax accounts for more than two years will receive basic and variable payouts on the dead member's account and any bonus they qualify for in their own right.

Successors of borrowers with mortgages in sole names will get the basic payout. But if they are Halifax borrowers in their own right or stand to receive payouts from another mortgage account as successor, they can receive only one basic payout

If one borrower with a joint mortgage dies, the other will receive one basic distribution of shares as a borrower.



Sir Brian Jenkins, the Woolwich chairman, came under fire from members

The Woolwich

Mary Nelson, a reader from Hampshire, has discovered that she stands to receive nothing in the Woolwich shareout. A series of quirks in the rules of the scheme combines to exclude her not only from a bonus payout, but also from the statutory cash bonus paid to those not entitled to vote.

Her father died on December 22, 1995, just nine days before the first of the two qualifying dates set by the Wool-

Britannia suspends account

BRITANNIA Building Society announced on Tuesday that it was suspending the opening of instant access accounts after experiencing a rush of carpetbaggers (Marlanne

Curphey writes).

A day later, the Portman Building Society, the only large mutual offering share accounts with a minimum £100 opening balance, said it had considered raising this balance. Ken Culley, chief execu-

possibility of raising the minimum balance, but "in this case we want to focus on the needs of small savers".

Britannia said that 12 times as many people as usual had applied to open share accounts amid speculation that it might be considering flotation. However, John Heaps, chief executive, said conversion was "not on the agenda" and there was "no windfall in prospect".

wich. He held two accounts with the society, a Prime Gold account and a Premier 90 account. Probate was granted on his estate in February 1996. hen the accounts were registered in Mrs Nelson's name. But she gets no payout because the accounts were nor in her name on December 31, 1995. She does not even get the statutory cash bonus because she had an account in

her name on December 31, 1990.
If Mrs Nelson's father had died after December 31, 1995, she would have been entitled to his free shares. Mrs Nelson this week told Sir Brian Jenkins, chairman of the Woolwich, that her exclusion was "unjust and objectionable. Your rights at the Woolwich

You will qualify for the shares that would have gone to a dead member with an account in his or her sole name if he or she dies between December 31, 1905, and the date of the flotation. To receive the basic payout the account must have had at least \$100 in it on the qualifying dates of December 31, 1995, and December 31, 1996. To receive the additional bonus, the account must have a balance of more than \$1,000 on December 31, 1995, and February II, 1997.

If you are the second-named holder on a joint account and the first named dies, you should receive the number of shares for which the account is eligible. If you would be entitled to only the basic payout on your joint account and have another account in your sole name, however, you will be entitled to only one basic payout. If you have held your joint account for more than two years and it qualifies for the additional payout, you will also be able to claim a basic payout on any account in your sole name.

■ The successors to borrowers with loans in single names should qualify for the basic payout. The remaining borrowers on joint mortgages will qualify

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Flemings drops charges to land 'knockout blow'

The pensions price war erupted again this week as the City took on Virgin and other telephone pension providers. Flemings announced that it was abolishing the £100 set-up charge and the £50 annual maintenance charge on its investment trust Pension Accounts and claimed it was "dealing a knockout blow" to overpriced

The abolition of the two set charges makes Flemings cheaper than any traditional life company or direct pension provider, according to the company's calculations. Personal pensions have been heavily criticised, most recently by the Consumers' Association, for their high charges and poor performance. Public confidence in per-

sonal pensions has been rocked by the mis-selling scandal, which remains unresolved more than three years after the evidence was unveiled by regulators. Flemings freely admits that Sara McConnell

and Adam Jones

on renewed hostilities in the

pensions price war

it is not going to make heavy inroads on the mass market, where most of the worst-value pensions are sold. Since launching its investment trust-linked personal pensions in October 1995, it has rigned up 1,500 clients.

These clients have come either in response to direct mailshots or through independent financial advisers. But the company is keen to promote pensions as a "natural market" for investment

trusts. Daniel Godfrey, the company's marketing director for investment trusts, said: "They are a good match. They are long-term, investor interest

will keep discounts narrow. and they have low charges."

The Flemings pension now carries a maintenance charge of 0.5 per cent, which falls to 0.25 per cent once the fund reaches £10,000. The charge is capped at £175 for funds of more than £70,000. On top of this there is an annual management charge of 0.65 per cent on the underlying trusts.

Using statistics from Money insurance companies' own pensions illustrations, Flentings calculates that its charges would reduce a pension fund of £213,062 by 11.8 per cent over 25 years. Charges would reduce the same fund at Virgin by 17.4 per cent and by 16.9 per cent

at Eagle Star Direct.
The best traditional life company, Equitable Life, would deduct 12.6 per cent in charges. United Friendly, the worst, would deduct a whacking 29 per cent. The figures all assume that the fund will grow at 9 per cent a year.

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M&G	80	79	63	36	34	53	46	54	42	22
Barclays Unicorn	69	54	54	64	68	81	72	95	84	61
Mercury	92	115	106	92	85	.86	89	69	63	79

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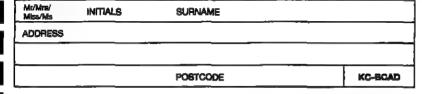
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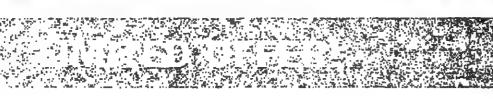
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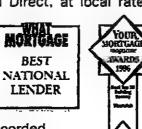
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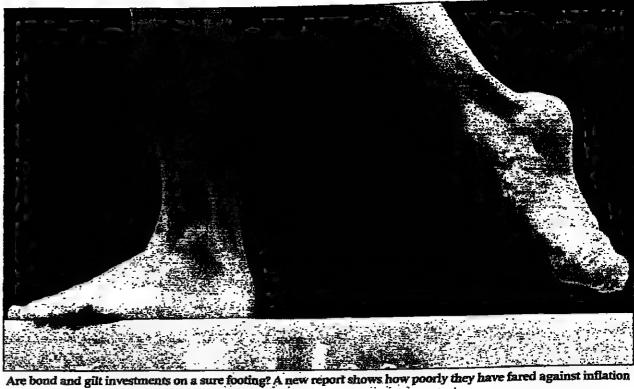
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2 Fauty-9



Balance of the bonds

re gilts and bonds good value? Fund managers are Aurging investors to get in on a pre-election bonanza that is boosting the yields and capital growth of debt instruments. Uncertainty over the UK's political intentions towards Europe is also keeping prices low. If European monetary convergence goes ahead it will restrict govern-ment borrowing which, combined with interest rate rises

aimed at choking off inflation, could set bond markets on a long-term rally. But are they really such a safe haven from volatile equity markets? A report out this week shows just how disastrously gilts and bonds have fared against inflation. It says that the best performing UK portfolio avoids them like the plague. But is that judgment sound? Is it balanced? We look at the pros and cons.

CASEFOR

t is bargain time in the gilts and bonds market say leading fund managers. Preelection uncertainty is keeping yields at attractively high levels, but they are likely to fall once a new government has been chosen.

Stewart Cowley, head of fixed interest at Hill Samuel Asset Management, which manages £8 billion in fixed-interest securities, argues that if Labour is elected it is likely to be more pro-European than the Conservatives. Closer economic cooperation will entail keeping a lid on inflation — essential for healthy bond markets.

He says: "When countries hold Europe at arm's length, as the UK has done, core European markets, such as Germany and France, demand a premium on yields to protect them against policy uncertainties. The UK's yield spreads are 0.5 per cent higher than they need to be compared with Germany. So UK bonds are relatively cheap."

Mr Cowley believes the cost of government borrowing could be reduced be reduced by £150 million if an economic convergence policy was pursued more vigorously. And when governments borrow less, bonds become more scarce, so their prices rise and yields fall. This

means that investors who bought now could not only experience attractive yields of between 7 per cent and 8 per cent, but also see the capital value of their bonds go up.

Paul Brain, head of bond investment at Guinness Flight, the fund manager, says that the gilts market is currently attractive. He says: "Now is a good time to buy because nobody likes political uncertainty. We believe a new government is likely to raise interest rates quickly to take the momentum out of a strongly growing economy and thereby choke off inflation. The gilts market will raily after that."

Guinness Flight expects a Labour government to be at least as determined as the Conservatives to reduce public spending and borrowing good news for existing bond holders. It might also make corporate tax changes to encourage companies to spend more on investment, rather than on fat dividends.

This might cast a shadow over the stock market and presents another reason why investors should consider rebalancing their portfolios to include more bonds.

nvesting in bonds is like

ordering your money to leap out of the trenches and face the German gunners at the Battle of the Somme. A massacre is inevitable. Figures released this week by BZW, the investment bank-

ing division of Barclays, show just how ruthlessly inflation will annihilate the returns you could expect from gilts. Since 1918, the year the First World War ended, a £100 investment in government debt would have withered to just £3.10 last

In stark contrast, equities would have increased the capital worth of your £100 into £786.30. And with the reinvested dividends that all shares pay, this sum would have reached a stupendous £36.528. Even over shorter periods gilts provide no competition to the might of equities. Gilts

have only a 4 per cent chance of beating equities over ten years, and 9 per cent over five years. The probability becomes respectable only over two-year periods, when it increases to 31 per cent. Gilts are the miserable mal-

contents of the investment ocean. Minnows that only prosper in the stagnant waters of low economic growth and MATTHEW WALL low inflation. Even then their

average annual return is 12. per cent, compared with 10.3

per cent for shares. Give these greedy fish a healthy dose of GDP growth and above-trend inflation and they start eating into your

Gilts are often presented as a safe house for investors. But given these figures it is no surprise that BZW recommends investors not to put any in their UK portfolios. Only the obsessively risk-averse investor should have had any gilts in the past 77 years, and even then only a minute 2 per cent, with the rest in cash. Otherwise, if your risk tolerance was low, average or high, your best bet was to hold

absolutely no gilts whatsoever. The introduction of indexlinked bonds in 1983 has done little to improve the situation. with the new class underperforming cash, conventional gilts and equities.

The first rule of investment is to make sure you are rewarded for taking some risk. Gilts take no risk, apart from being overtaken by inflation. and offer no rewards. In short. they only suit those with a play safe, go-nowhere attitude

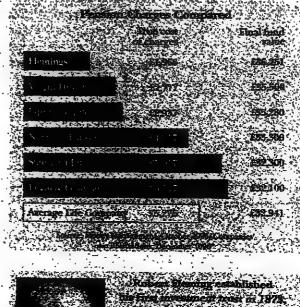
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Higher premiums in the pipeline for homeowners GT Global

snap, Marianne Curphey checks

out the extent

of damage to the insurance industry

omeowners and motorists face increases of up to 10 per cent in their insurance premiums this year after the winter freeze cost insurers hundreds of millions of pounds in claims from

The biggest bills the industry faces are for burst pipes in private homes and offices, where the cost of repairing damage often exceeds £50,000.
The Association of British

insurers spent £135,000 this winter alerting householders to the hazards of sub-zero temperatures. Insurance companies laid on hundreds of extra staff to cope with the rush of claims after the big thaw. But even careful householders can fall victim to burst pipes and water tanks if these are old or leaky.

John Burke, a travel agent from London, returned home from a holiday in Tenerife this month to find "a frozen waterfall" coming out of the first floor landing window of his home. The big freeze over Christmas and the new year had caused his upstairs pipes and water tanks to burst, and water began cascading down

His insurance company says the damage could cost £25,000 to repair and that six months of work are needed to make the house habitable.

Mr Burke opened his front door to discover ceilings had fallen down in the bedrooms. kitchen and the hallway. "I've never seen such devastation. The house is unrecognisable," he said. Furniture, family photos and carpets are ruined.

Unknown to Mr Burke, the police had broken into his home while he was on holiday after neighbours had heard a huge crash, which turned out to be the sound of the kitchen ceiling collapsing. They turned off gas, electricity and water. Had the flooding continued for a few more days, the foundations could have be-

Mr Burke's insurance company, Cornhill, has arranged



Devastated: an estimated £25,000 of repairs are needed to make John Burke's home habitable

is paying for the family to stay in a hotel.

Burst pipes have been the biggest headache for house-holders this winter. David Lennan, head of retail insurance for NatWest Insurance Services, said his claims department had seen a 35 per cent rise in calls over the past

Damage claims for house holds last year totalled £400 million and would have been higher but for the fact that the worst of the weather was in Scotland, where the population is less dense. This year the most badly hit area is the South East, which is particularly vulnerable to flooding

Mr Lennan said the average household damage claim because of winter weather was £1,500, but some were far higher. "Sustained water damage can cause tremendous problems as plasterboard ceilings deteriorate very quickly

As a small consolation to people whose homes have been damaged over the winter, loss adjusters should be able to settle claims far more swiftly, thanks to a new data service launched in December by the Meteorological Office. Called Geo Proof, it logs rainfall,

and soon collapse."

Trevor May, insurance analyst with Salomon Brothers,

cent this year, possibly by even

more in some areas. Mr May said: "We will see rises in single figures. However, because insurers can be so precise about risk assessment by looking at bands of only 16 to 32 homes, premiums houses in low-risk areas could even go down."

Geo Proof will enable claims handlers and loss adjusters to look at weather patterns for more than 650 postcode areas in the UK

About 3,000 people phone the office every year in an weather data. Insurers suspect they are trying to collate information to make fraudu-

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Caroline Merrell and Lizanne Rose don their skis

How to avoid heading for an expensive fall

But the fun on the piste in ten participants will suffer injury while participating in this dangerous pastime.

The mishaps are numerous. Skiers break legs, tear cartilages and rip their cruciate ligaments, the kind of serious injury more commonly suffered by footballers. Skiers can also cause injury to others, in collisions on the mountainside which can result in personal liability claims.

However, many still fly off to the slopes without taking out any insurance against injury. Others will assume that the policy they have purchased as part of their trip is adequate to cover them against any eventuality.

Those who have their own skis can often fail to check the extent of the cover. Some insurers may reject the claim for the loss of skis unless they have been kept in a locked storeroom, locked to a roof rack or kept in a car boot.

A Weekend Money survey of high street travel agents this week (see page 47) showed that anyone taking a skiing trip would routinely be offered insurance, often as part of the holiday deal.

However, the small print of the cover differed from tour operator to tour operator. This means that you should check the small print, especially if you are travelling to the US where the cost of medical treatment is far higher than in Europe. The more dangerous sports, such as snowboarding, are not always included, however, though they do feature in the British Airways Travel Shops policy.

Premiums can also be much higher if you are a senior citizen — United Vacations' cover was double the normal adult rate. Travellers over the age of 75 will have to obtain an individual quote.

This is against the trend for policies covering less active forms of holidays where premiums for pensioners at some companies are beginning to fall (see page 49).

We discovered that most policies will provide some cover against an absence of snow. The exceptions are American Express and British Airways Travel Shops, which will not pay out if the snow



Tara Palmer-Tomkinson skied with the royals this winter

fails to fall. Going Places will require written confirmation of the closure of pistes. Details of the cover will vary

and the small print should be Which?, the Consumers' Association magazine, surveyed 270 policies and recommended you look for the following: Medical expenses cover (if involved in an accident or

taken ill while away).

Cover for cancelling your, holiday or for cutting it short. Personal liability cover (if someone sues you).

■ Cover for prepaid expenses

Baggage cover if bags are lost or stolen.

The policy should court the cost of the ski pass and any other expenses paid in ad-

Cover for the cost of mountain-rescue. Cover for the theft of your lift pass.
For example, Direct Travel,

one of the companies recom-mented by Which? others a

policy covering the following:

£10 million of medical cover.

£2 million personal liability cover, £30,000 personal accident cover, for loss of sight or loss of limb, and cover for legal expenses of up to

Mark Shaw, Direct Travel manager, said that the high level of legal expenses cover was designed to protect skiers in America, who could easily find themselves the subject of legal action if they accidentally

caused injury to another. He continued: "The biggest area of claim is for medical expenses following injury, and also for repatriation cost."

Mr Shaw said that the cover would include repatriation from the US. The policy also includes £150 to cover the hire cost of ski equipment, and £500 to cover a ski pass and a lift pass, Other Which? best buys

included policies from Europ Assistance, Inter Assurance Travel Insurance Direct and World Cover Direct. Cover for a one-week holi-

day in Europe for one adult will be between EZI and EZ4; family policies for two adults and two children will cost between £50 and £60.

If you have an annual travel policy, you should make sure that skiing holidays are

For example, the Europ Assistance annual travel insurance offers 17 days of skiing insurance. But the policy no longer covers skiing holidays in the US.

Frederique. Pion of Europ Assistance said: Not every standard ski policy will cover ski equipment while it is in

She added that "no snow" cover was nearly always standard on policies. But she added: "The definition of no snow will vary from policy to policy. Some will say that all types of slopes have to be out of action."

Europ Assistance's policy defines no snow as: "If during the trip you are pre-vented from skiing for more than 24 hours because of total closure of the lift system." Other policies may pay out if all but the nursery slopes are out of action.

Which? says: When you buy a policy, make sure you. disclose anything that might affect your cover such as health problems."

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Ruse (ICI) their THE TIMES SATURDAY JANUARY 25 1997 neadin to guide you cautiously down the insurance slopes



Before heading for the slopes skiers should take care to check their insurance cover for themselves and equipment

Thomas Cook

Thomas Cook offers his own fully comprehensive cover, including insurance for ski equipment plus the standard no-snow guarantee. The premium for one week in Europe is £37.95 and £45.45 for two weeks. Cover for two weeks in the US is £72.85.

All brochures in Thomas Cook stipulate that holiday insurance must be taken out. You can either accept the policy that the travel company has arranged, for example. Thomson Holidays uses Home and Overseas insurance, or choose a comparable policy with another company. The premium for a Thomson ski holiday in Europe is £35 for one week (up to nine nights) and £39 for 10-17 nights. For a trip to North America, cover logical for a trip to North America, cover costs £49 for one week and £55 for up to 17 nights. Piste closure is included. Skiers will be given free transport to another ski area if the officially prepared slopes are closed. Claims may be made for each day the slope was closed, if it was not possible to transport closer, already are the policy. transport skiers elsewhere. The policy covers personal liability of £1 million (£2 million in the US) and medical and emer-gency expenses of £2 million.

Lunn Poly

Lunn Poly's Ski Care policy for holidays in Europe costs £36.95 for ten days, £41.95 for 17 days and £56.10 for 31 days. Worldwide cover starts at £57.90 for ten days, £67.95 for 17 days and £80.30 for 31 days. There is a reduction of 25 per cent on premiums for children under 12 and children under two on the holiday return British Airways
late are insured free of charge. As well as
the E2 million personal liability, there are
British Airways Winter Sports Premiums inlimited medical expenses although a do not include a no-snow guarantee. In-

policy excess applies. The policy covers winter sports equipment as well as piste

HE POSTOF INSURING YOUR HOLIDAY

Going Places

Going Places is owned by Airtours. Its winter sports insurance for a ski trip to Europe costs £37.95 for seven nights and £42.95 for 14 nights, Worldwide premiums are £66.75 for up to 14 nights.

The policy covers piste closure to a limit of £300. In the event of adverse weather at your booked ski resort and all ski lifts and ski schools being closed, the additional cost of transport/lift passes to an alternative resort will be paid. If no alternative is available, a benefit of up to £30 per day is available. The policy says compensation will not be paid unless you have obtained written confirmation of closure from the ski-lift operators. A limit of £1,500 will be paid on personal possessions and a limit of £10 million on emergency medical and associated expenses. For example, if you suffer an accident while skiing, including in the US, you will be flown home and additional transport and accommodation expenses incurred will be paid.

One of the ski brochures on display in Going Places was for United Vacations' Ski Freedom in the US. United Vacations' insurance premiums are as follows: £55 for nine days, £65 for 10-17 days and £75 for 18-23. The premium for children under 16 is much lower at £28 for nine days, £33 for 10-17 days and £38 for 18-23 days, but for senior citizens the cost increases to £110 for nine days, £130 for 10-17 days and £150 for 18-23 days.

surance prices start at E34 for five days in Europe, £40 for nine days, £46 for 17 days and £58 for up to 31 days, Rates for children under 16 years skiing in Europe are E30 for nine days and E34 for 17 days. Adult worldwide insurance premiums are £96 for 17 days and £128 for 31 days. If you plan to go snowboarding, play ice hockey, or attempt to mono-ski, these activities are included in the policy. Some other dangerous sports will incur a higher premium though, so check when taking out your BA policy. Medical cover is £5 million.

One of the ski brochures available in the BA Travel Shop is for Crystal Holidays. Premiums are £34.50 for one week's cover and £39.50 for two weeks in Europe. For the US and Canada, the cost is £49 for one week and £63.50 for two weeks. Notably, the Crystal Supercare Insurance offers free cover for children aged 15 and under when all adults booking take the Crystal cover. If you decide to book a Crystal holiday but choose another company's insurance you are still able to take out Snow Guarantee/Piste Closure cover for £4.50 a week.

American Express

American Express Winter Sports and Adventure rates do not include a no-snow guarantee. However, off-piste skiing, snowboarding, ice hockey, ski jumping, bobsleighing, high-altitude skiing and ski acrobatics are included in the policy. For skiing in Europe, the premium is £30 for up to nine days, £38.50 for 17 days, £42 for 24 days and £43.50 for 31 days. If you are travelling to resorts in the US or Canthe cost is £51 for nine up to 17 days, £70 for up to 24 days and £34 for up to 31 days. Medical expenses of

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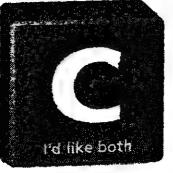
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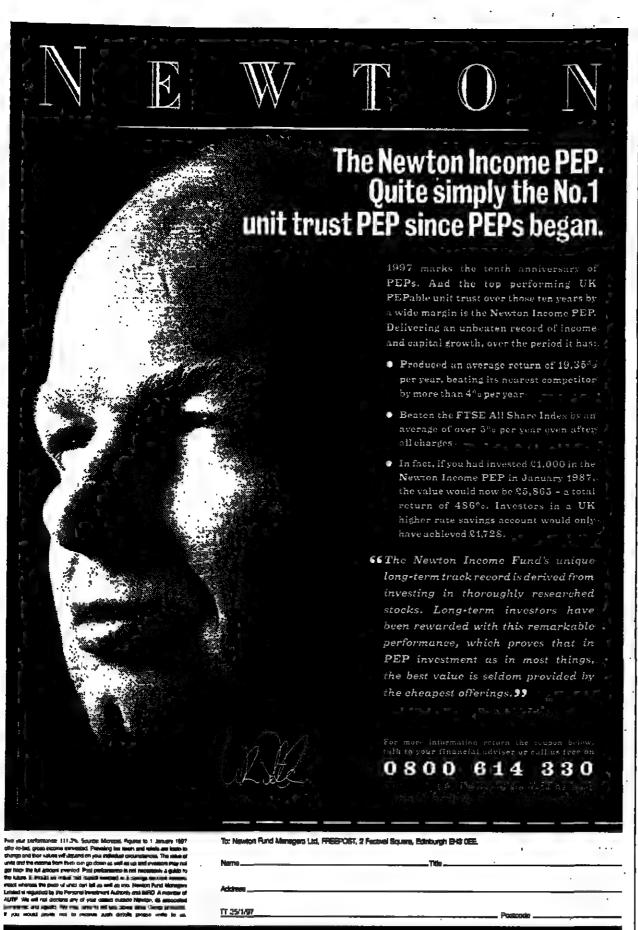
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Goldman's game plan is not for the faint-hearted

Turning your hobby into an investment can

be good sport

for those happy

to take a risk

ost people see Tim Henman's recent emergence in world tennis as a welcome break from British sporting decline. Michael Goldman, manager of the Momentum Premier Sports fund, also sees an

investment opportunity.
Mr Goldman's offshore fund has grown 66 per cent in the eight months since its launch by spotting trends in sport worldwide. It held stock in First Team Sports, a com-pany that makes rollerblades and protective pads, before the skating fad became wide enough for competitors to drive down profit margins

He says Henman's improvement could lead to a surge in general interest in tennis in England, with a corresponding effect on companies that have significant exposure to that part of the leisure market. Few spring to mind. Dunlop Slazenger is owned by its management: David Lloyd Leisure, operator of tennis-based sports centres, was a successful listed company and was taken over by Whitbread.

But this elusiveness is part of the game. It is not enough just to think laterally and buy anything that remotely fits the bill. Sport shares, particularly football, are starting to get a more realistic rating in the market. The "hunch" investors are going to have to work harder. Momentum is primarily a hedge fund manager, investing in the fast-moving and complicated world of derivatives and currencies, as well as equities. The sport fund also has a free-wheeling nature. Being registered offshore.



Tim Henman's recent success could have a beneficial effect on tennis-related companies

vehicles, unlike unit trusts in Britain. This flexibility makes it riskier and investors' money is not covered by UK protec-

The fund could trade in Wimbledon debentures, which guarantee buyers a Centre Court seat for every day of play for five years, in return for £20,000. They are traditionally in short supply, often staying in families for generations. But they can be traded on a secondary market in London on a matched bargain basis (some brokers carry lists of

potential buyers and sellers). If you could persuade a holder of a 1996-2000 deben ture to sell. Hearing would put thousands on the resale price if he grows into a serious championship contender. How much would a fan pay to see the tennis equivalent of Halley's comer, a Brit in the men's final? Multiply the figure by ten and sell as corpo-

Goldman enthuses about 25-year debentures he bought for himself Newlands rugby ground in South Africa, Initially unpopular, like so many debentures, they cost 250 rand and are now

over £3,000 A recent débenure-cumshare issue guaranteed seats at all main stadium events for the Sydney Olympics in 2000. Additional perks include 1,000 units in an investment trust finked to the company that will

worth about R25,000. How-

ever, the value of the rand has

been falling against sterling — 25,000 rand is now worth just

subsequently operate the Olympic Stadium. But it has not been a hit with Australians and New Zealand-ers, put off, perhaps, by the £4,600 price tag. Now the offer has been extended to companies worldwide, Goldman says the sports fund is set to take a stake in the public share

work as a decent and enjoy-able investment — it's a bit like

investing in wine." They only form a very small part of the fund, however. The shares that have fuelled its rise. include Glasgow Rangers, the football club, and Nike, the

sportswear manufacturer. Mr Goldman expects a fall in the US market. About 25 per cent of its market exposure is configured to protect the fund against it. US stocks that have done well in the past for Momentum include Callaway what you know and feel passionate about, says Mr Goldman, a philosophy that makes sport a natural choice for private and professional investors alike.

The average investment manager takes more time picking his golf club than picking a stock," Mr Goldman jokes.

ADAM JONES

Cellar dwellers reap rewards



There are many attractions to a cellar full & Brooks, Lay & Wheeler (Colchester) and of wine, not least the chance to see one's Tanners (Shrewsbury). If purchasing at bottles potentiably appreciate in valor, with attribut, reliember that a 10 per cent buyers any profits exempt from capital gains tax, preliming plus VAT, will be levied plus Some investors buy more than they personal delivery (usually £5-8 per dozen bottles). ly need, sell the balance for a tax-free gain and ... Keep the wine stored in a cool, preferably so have their drinking subsidised by the dark cellar where there is little temperature

most regularly appear in suctions. December Magazine has monitored the periormanice of both. From a base of 100 km August 1978, it records bordeaux now at 884.76 and port at

The four main ways to acquire good stocks are to buy from a reputable merchant, to participate in an instalment scheme usually on a monthly banker's order basis to purchase at auction or through a wine broker. Good advice can be obtained from Armit, Berry Bros & Rudd, El Vigo, Fa

Bordeaux and port are the two sectors that "do act have the right conditions, go to a specialist wine storer. Also make sure that the stock is labelled as your property - it is not adequate to rely on a "goods received" note value. Insurers may be prepared to extend your house contents policy provided there is adequate security."

When it comes to selling, some merchants will purchase back excess stock. Otherwise, unless you hold a licence, the best arrangement is to use an auction. Britain holds more



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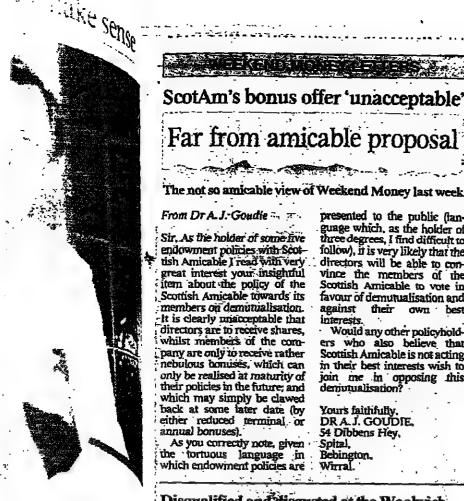
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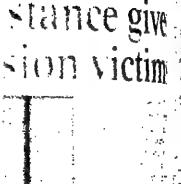
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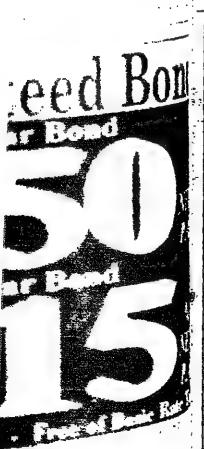


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ScotAm's bonus offer 'unacceptable' Far from amicable proposal

From Dr A. J. Goudie - 🛪 -

Sir. As the holder of some five endowment policies with Scot-tish Amicable I read with very great interest your insightful item about the policy of the Scottish Amicable towards its nembers on demutualisation. it is clearly unacceptable that directors are to receive shares, interests. whilst members of the company are only to receive rather nebulous bonuses, which can only be realised at maturity of their policies in the future; and which may simply be clawed back at some later date (by either reduced terminal or

annual bonuses). As you correctly note, given the tortuous language in which endowment policies are

presented to the public (lan-guage which, as the holder of three degrees, I find difficult to follow), it is very likely that the directors will be able to convince the members of the Scottish Amicable to vote in favour of demutualisation and against their own best

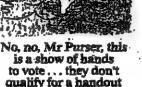
Would any other policyhold-ers who also believe that Scottish Amicable is not acting in their best interests wish to join me in opposing this demutualisation?

Yours faithfully, DR A. J. GOUDIE, 54 Dibbens Hey,

Disqualified and disgusted at the Woolwich

From Mr S.L. Wain Sir, I read with interest Mr Boddam-Whetham's letter on listribution of free shares. The Woolwich replied that they had used a criteria of best the subject of the Woolwich practice" based on other confloat and disqualified invesversions. However, this is not tors (January 18). I, too, am the case. With the Alliance & one of the estimated 40,000 Leicester, existing members were allowed to "top-up" their account if they had insufficient funds in their account. This I "disqualified investors". Some time ago I wrote to the chief executive of the Woolwich about this matter, expressing did and I am now eligible for my concern that despite being the share handout. member since the Eighties Imagine my surprise when a and not having the qualifying £100 in my account on December 31, 1995, I was therefore

voting form landed on my mat. I voted, and returned the form, assuming that I must be eligible for a share handout as my understanding was that only qualifying members were eligi-ble to vote. Now it transpires that I will receive only the statutory cash bonus. What galls me about this is that I now feel I have been deceived into voting, and that I have been manipulated by the Woolwich into the rush for conversion. Surely only investors eligible for shares should be allowed to vote. I now question the validity of the Woolwich's actions, and hope that the Woolwich Action Campaign will pursue this further on behalf of all the 40,000 "disqualified investors". Yours faithfully, SPENCER WAIN, 31, Station Road,



I say Chaps, it's hardly good enough is it?

Sir, I was recently expecting a same-day Chaps transfer from a NatWest account at Piccadilly to my Nationwide account. at Swindon.

The payer confirmed that their account had been debited on December 31. By January 3 there was no sign of my money in my account. After Nationwide had spent a couple of days searching for it, my account was eventually credit-1 ed on January 8.

To do them justice they backdated the entry to December 31 so that I would not lose the £10 a day interest.

It eventually transpired that

Chaps inward at Swindon have to enter manually vast numbers of "missing" Chaps because the computer tapes and their computers have so many elitches and other prob-lems that electronic transfers

cannot be guaranteed! Question: who benefits from the money that sits in these black holes the while? Warning: always check

large transfers and ensure they are credited to your account the day they leave the payer's account Yours faithfully. CHRIS PHILIP.

Lakeside, Gaines Road, Whitbourne, Worcestershire.

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Philip Barron on travel insurance for the elderly

Check out the small print

The elderly may still be paying as much as 100 per cent more for travel insurance if they wish to venture onto the slopes. But for more sedate excursions. higher premiums for pensioners may not always

apply.
For years, many travel insurers have given the over-65s a raw deal, imposing premium penalties on the ground that elderly policyholders are more likely to

However, with the benefit of accumulated claims data, and spurred by competition, some companies are recognising that being a pensioner does not automatically make someone a bad risk.

The insurer's main concern with this age group is the medical risk. Lorinda Perry, of Perry, Gamble & Co, a firm of brokers that arranges policies sold by many travel agents, said: "With more people adopting healthier lifestyles, the health of the elderly in general seems to be

improving."
Perry, Gamble & Co has found it possible to offer normal rates for single trips within Europe, regardless of

the client's age.
The World Choice policy,

TRAVEL INSURANCE (EUROPE) FOR OVER-65s - 1997

sold by travel agents who are members of the Alliance of Independent Travel Agents, also disregards age. The cost of cover for one week's holiday in Europe would be £18.90 and £21.70 for two weeks. Some agents may charge less.

Sarah Joannides, of Home & Overseas Insurance, which underwrites the Safeguard travel policy, said: "The industry is moving towards a rating system that will be fairer for all holidaymakers, irrespective of age, by charg-ing premiums that are commensurate with the medical risk in terms of fitness to

Meanwhile over-65s will

still pay twice as much as younger holidaymakers to take out a Safeguard policy. Many argue that all insurers should offer helplines giving prompt and reliable

answers to health queries These help potential customers to find suitable policies, allowing them to find straightaway whether they will be accepted and whether they will have to pay more. But such services are still

rare. So it is important to read carefully the medical exclusion clause that is in every policy prospectus. If in doubt, contact the insurer or broker issuing the policy; do not rely on assurances from the travel agency clerk. Be-

ware of policies that sugges pre-existing conditions do not affect cover: you may find that there are general exclu-sion clauses in the small

Travellers expecting to take several holidays each year may find it more convenient to take out an annual policy. although these are more like ly to carry a loading for older travellers. This is because it is more difficult for insurers to gauge their exposure over a long period, especially with worldwide cover. Some insurers, such as Saga, offer reduced rates for couples. A "travelling companion" can be the other half of the

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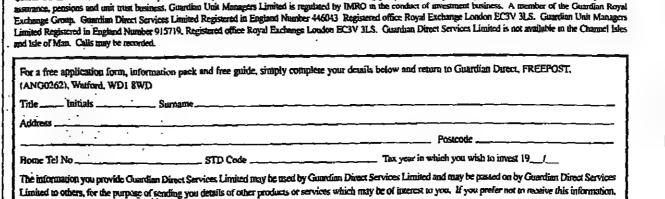
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Building Society Account

Our Economics Editor looks at 'a great engine of state'

The nation's formidable Old Lady

ECONOMICS EXPLAINED

known as the Old Lady of Threadneedle
Street, was set up in 1694 and is one of the
world's oldest central banks. It started life as a
commercial bank but was nationalised in 1946.
By then it had already come to behave like a
public institution and had built up a formidable
reputation. In The Wealth of Nations in 1776,
Adam Smith wrote that this was no ordinary
bank but "a great engine of state".

■ Bank roles. The Bank is the central bank of the United Kingdom, acting as bank to the Government and the financial system. The Bank sees its three main roles as maintaining the value of the nation's money, ensuring the stability of the financial system and promoting its efficiency and competitiveness. Central banks have become extraordinarily powerful in the modern age as governments have withdrawn from full-scale intervention in their economies and turned to monetary policy as the centrepiece of economic management.

Monetary policy. This is the central business of central bankers. Monetary policy seeks to safeguard the currency and provide a framework for non-inflationary economic growth through the management of credit, the exchange rate and interest rates. Of these three, only the last remains. Controls on the amount of money banks ould lend were abandoned in 1971 and attempts to target the exchange rate ended in September 1992, when sterling was ejected from the exchange-rate mechanism.

In the past, the Bank could try to influence the level of sterling through intervention. Using the country's gold and foreign exchange reserves when necessary, it would buy sterling in exchange for foreign currencies when it wanted to stop the pound falling, and sell sterling if it wanted to curb a rise. Nowadays, there is virtually no intervention because government policy is to allow the exchange rate to float freely.

■ Interest rates and inflation. Interest rates are now the key weapon of monetary policy. The level of rates affects borrowing, consumer demand, investment, the economy's output and ultimately prices. After the 1992 sterling crisis, Norman Lamont, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, set up a new monetary policy framework to replace the ERM. Its centrepiece is an inflation target of 2.5 per cent or less, and rates are now set to achieve that target.

It is the Bank's role to advise the Chancellor



Record run: Montagu Norman is easily the Bank of England's longest-serving Governor, filling the hot seat from 1920 to 1944

on the appropriate level of interest rates. To this end, since 1992, it has published an *Inflation Report* every quarter, containing a detailed analysis of trends in prices and an independent forecast of inflation. Monthly monetary meetings between the Chancellor and the Bank have been put on a formal footing and minutes are published six weeks after each meeting. These gatherings are popularly known as the Ken and Eddie show after Kenneth Clarke and Eddie George garrent Chancellor and Governor.

■ Independence. Because the Bank's advice is now open to public scrutiny, many argue that it has gained influence. But the Government stopped short of giving the Bank total independence from political control, the thorny issue which has exercised Governors from the legendary Montagu Norman, the Bank's longest-serving Governor, to Eddie George

today. Of Britain's, main parties, only the Liberal Democrats have committed themselves to giving full independence.

Banking supervision. In 1979 the Bank was given statutory responsibility for authorising and supervising all deposit-taking institutions operating in the United Kingdom, but it had already exercised informal surveillance over many institutions operating in the City of London for many years. The main purpose of this role is to protect depositors with banks against the risk of losing their money. The Barings crisis of 1890, when the highly respected merchant bank was sitting on a pile of worthless Argentine bonds and faced bankrupt-cy, threw up the issue that remains the central question of banking supervision even today. When is it the Bank's duty, if ever, to rescue companies which deserve to go bust yet in so

doing may create a financial panic that could destabilise the whole financial system? The Bank rescued Barings in the 19th century by borrowing gold from France and Russia, but modern views have turned away from spectacular bail-outs. The Bank stood back when a modern-day Barings was hit by trading losses incurred by Nick Leeson and waited for a private sector purchaser to ride to the rescue.

Ecity cheerleader. The Bank takes a lead in promoting the competitiveness of the City. The Bank is currently spearheading an effort to prepare for the advent of a single European currency. Whether or not Britain joins, the Bank wants business and London's markets ready to compete against rival centres in Paris and Frankfurt.

JANET BUSH

THE BANK'S MOST PUBLIC FACE

The Bank of England is probably most familiar to the public as the name on banknotes. It is the sole issuer of notes in England and Wales. Although Scottish and

Northern Irish banks issue their own, they have to be backed pound for pound by Bank of England notes.

Notes original-

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ly represented deposits of gold coin and bullion piled high in the Bank's vaults. Until 1931, when Britain came off the gold standard, they could be exchanged for gold at a fixed

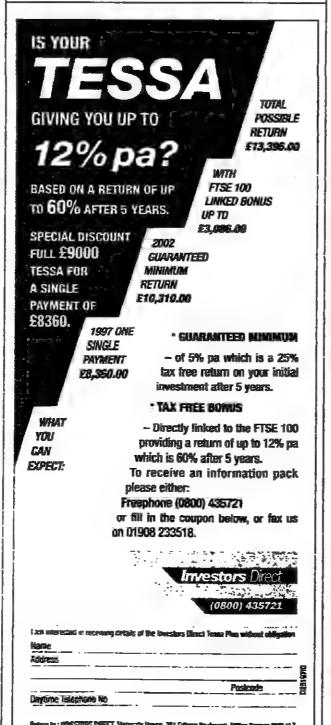
rate: hence the words "I promise to pay" on the face of notes.

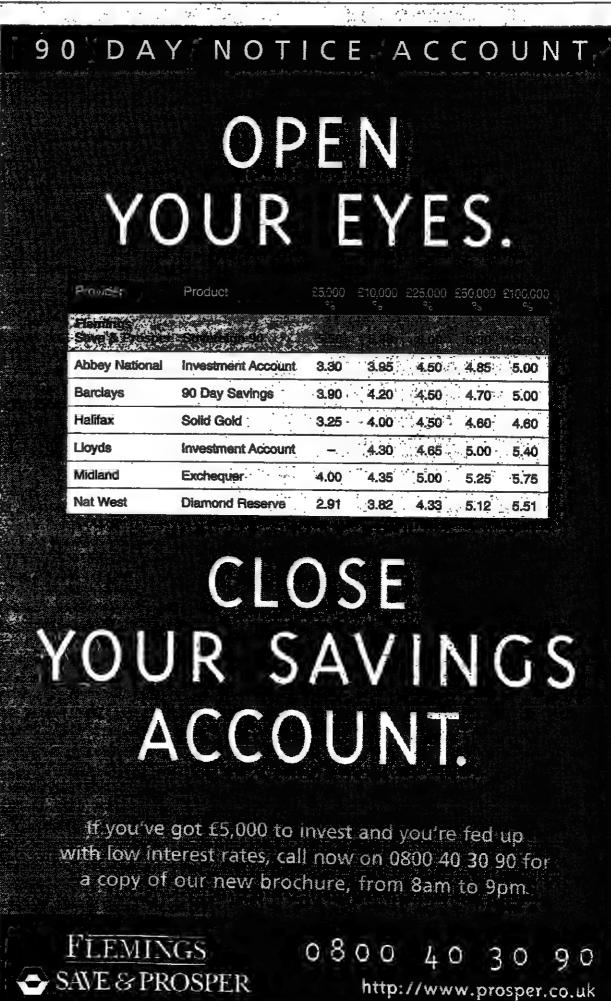
The notes are designed and printed af the Bank's own. printing works. The average life of its banknotes ranges

from a year for the £5 note to three to four years for a £50 note. To see the sheer beauty and complexity of banknotes

through the centuries — as well as piles of glittering gold burs — take a trip to the Bank's own museum in the City.

JANET BUSH





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AN ESTIMATED £1,700 million is being wasted by married couples who are not using their tax-free personal allowances to the full legal extent. The David Aaron Partnership, the independent financial adviser, has produced a bookler designed to help couples to understand how the tax system works and how tax-saving opportunities have been enhanced by the Chanrellor's proposals in the last Budget. The Independent Taxation of Married Couples — A Simple Guide illustrates

1. 抗病腹膜

oventry Building Society has launched a new and income over all members of a family to help married couples to save tax immediately and without cost. For a copy of the guide, send a cheque for £4 (incl p&p) made payable to The David Aaron Partner ship, Shelton House, High Street, Woburn Sands, Milton Keynes, MK17 8SD. The offer ends on April 30.

> THE Inland Revenue has published a guide for workers in the building and construcin the building and construc-tion industry, offering help with tax for employees and the self-employed. The leaflet gives step-by-step guidance that will help you to under-stand why your contractor must ascertain whether you are are self-employed or an employee, what this means as employee, what this means as far as your tax is concerned, plus how to fill in your tax return correctly if you have changed from being self-employed to being an employee. The guide answers questions such as how PAYE works, how capital allowances are calculated, and what tax records you need to keep. The guide is available free of charge from all Tax Enquiry

> > LIZANNE ROSE

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ortman BS 01202 292444	instant Acc Inst by Post	Postal	21,000	6.00	Y
Scarborough BS 0800 590578	Select Inst	Postal	£5,000	6,35	Y
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000 Bristol & West BS 0800 901109	Instrit Postal	Postal	25,000	6.35	Y
J. 10-10-10-10-10-10-10-10-10-10-10-10-10-1		Notice			intere
NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	of term	Deposit	Rate	pa
	200 to 100	20 day p	25,000	6.05	Y
Chelsea BS 0800 132351	POST-tel 20 30 Day Notice	30 day p	£10,000	6.30	Y
First National BS 0800 558844	Select 60	60 day p	210,000	6.50	```
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000 Leeds & Holbeck BS 0113 2257777	Postal Bonus	30.4.98p	£10,000	7.00	
		Notice			Intere
CIDAT TERRE (TAV EREE)	Account	of term	Deposit	Rate	P
FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)		5 уеаг	28,575	7.50	F/
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	Fored nate	5 year	\$5,000	7.45	F/
NatWest Bank 0800 200400	Fixed rate Premier	5 year	59,000	7.20	
Investec Bank (UK) 0171 626 0879 West Bromwich BS 0990 143668	Figure	5 year	63,000	7.00	•

Advantage Visa. Visa Visa.	0.64%NC 0.79%N 0.797%N	7.90%N 9.90%N 9.90%N	NII NII NII
APR	Monthly payme	ent on £3,00	00 for 3yrs
12.90%H	£112.6		£102.59 £101.45
	VISE VISE PAPEL CARS F	Vise 0.79%N 0.797%N 0.797%N O.797%N O.	Vise 0.79%N 9.90%N 9.90

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING tyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01892 500 577)

FT-SE 100 PRICE INDEX J P M A M J J A S O N D J

1.1.98 4% disc-31.8.97 2% disc-28.2.99

BASE RATES V MORTGAGES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 Age 65 Male: Age 60 SINGLE LIFE (level ann) £10,920 Sun Lf of Can.....Level Prudential.....Level Standard Lf......Level £10,889 £10,844 £10,824 £10,781 Female: Age 60 Age 65 SINGLE LIFE £ 9,956 £ 9,880 £ 9,757 £ 9,717 29,204 Prudential £9,142 £8,948 £8,815 Sun Lt of Can... Canada Life Stalwart * Age 65 Age 60 JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS £9,357 £9,340 £9,307 28,768 28,768 28,620 28,660 28,520 PrudentialLevel Sun Li of Can.....Level Stalwart *Level Equitable LtLevel Canada LifeLevel £9,186 £9,140 Maronum purchase £100,000. Higher rates for smokers. Source: Annualy Decat (\$177,588,9393) Statistics compiled by Lizanne Rose

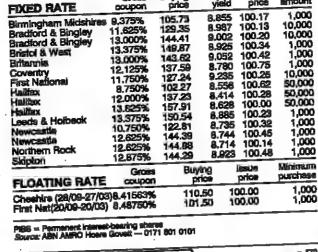
Children's Bandt 6.75

ender	rate %	Loan	Max %	Notes
Building Societ Bristol & West	ies 8.50	to £15k+	95	3.75% discount for one year
0800 119955 Coventry	5.11	to £125k	95	2.14% discount for one year
0800 126125 Lambeth 0171 928 1331	3.99	£15-150k	95	3.25% discount for one year
Banks Bok of ireland	1.24	£20-145k	95	6.25% disc 6 mins 3% disc 6 mins
01734 510100 TSB Bank 0500 758000	3.51	£15k+	95	3.74% discount for one year

The new Chase de Verre/ Flemings Save & Prosper Investment Account promises to exceed or match the average of the best rates of ten leading building societies on instant access accounts. It is probably the only account you will ever need. 0800 526 093 FREEPHONE LINES OPEN 29 HOURS INSTANT ACCESS CHASE DE VERE

inves	tment (£)	Company	Rate
	Rates as a	t January 23, 1997	Stand
		JAL INCOME	

		investment (£)	Company	Rate (%)
1 to 2 to	1 Year	5,000 10,000 20,000 50,000	Financial Assur Hambro Assured Hambro Assured Financial Assur	5.30 5.40 5.60 5.65
· Karana and Araba	2 Years	1,000 3,000	Hambro Assured ITT London & Edin	5.05 6.20
1 1.3 12 13	3 Years	1,000 3,000	Hembro Assured ITT London & Edin	5.40 6.30
•	: 4 Years	1,000 3,000 20,000 50,000	Hambro Assured 11T London & Edin Hambro Assured Hambro Assured	5.80 6.35 6.45 6.50
	5 Years	1,000 3,000	Hambro Assured ITT London & Edin	5.85 6.70
ACCOUN	Source: G Sarly sum	rembelsin de Broë 0171- ender, Terne very, Monthly	134.4202. Net rates, income and ricome may be guadable.	cepital guarantes



SHARE IN FOCUS: BURTON GROU SHARES HIT BY PROFIT-TAKING	
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	Banks of ireland 01734 510100 Midland 0800 484999	1.24 3.99	£20-145k £100k+	95 80	6.25% disc-6 mth 3% disc-8 mths 3% discount for 12 months
	%	LAI	RGER L	DAN	l s
1	Lander	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
-	Building Societies Scarborough	0.25	£30-100k	95	8.99% dsc 6 mth 2%-6mth,0.5%-1
	0800 590547 Standard	0.99	to £100k	80	6% discount for 5 months
	0191 2574123 Manufield 01246 202065	0.64	£75-125k	90	6,35% dec 6 mit 2%-5mth,1%-1yr
8	Banks Bank of Ireland	1.24	<u>52</u> 0-145k	95	8.25%dac-6 mth 3% dac-6 mth
0 5 0 5	01734 510100 Midland Bank 0600 494999	4.15	£50-100k	95	3% discount for 1 year
لاست د د		WEN	State	o const	

LARGER LENDERS

to \$250k

£100k+

to \$500k

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Building Societies Alliance & Leic 0181 742 0471

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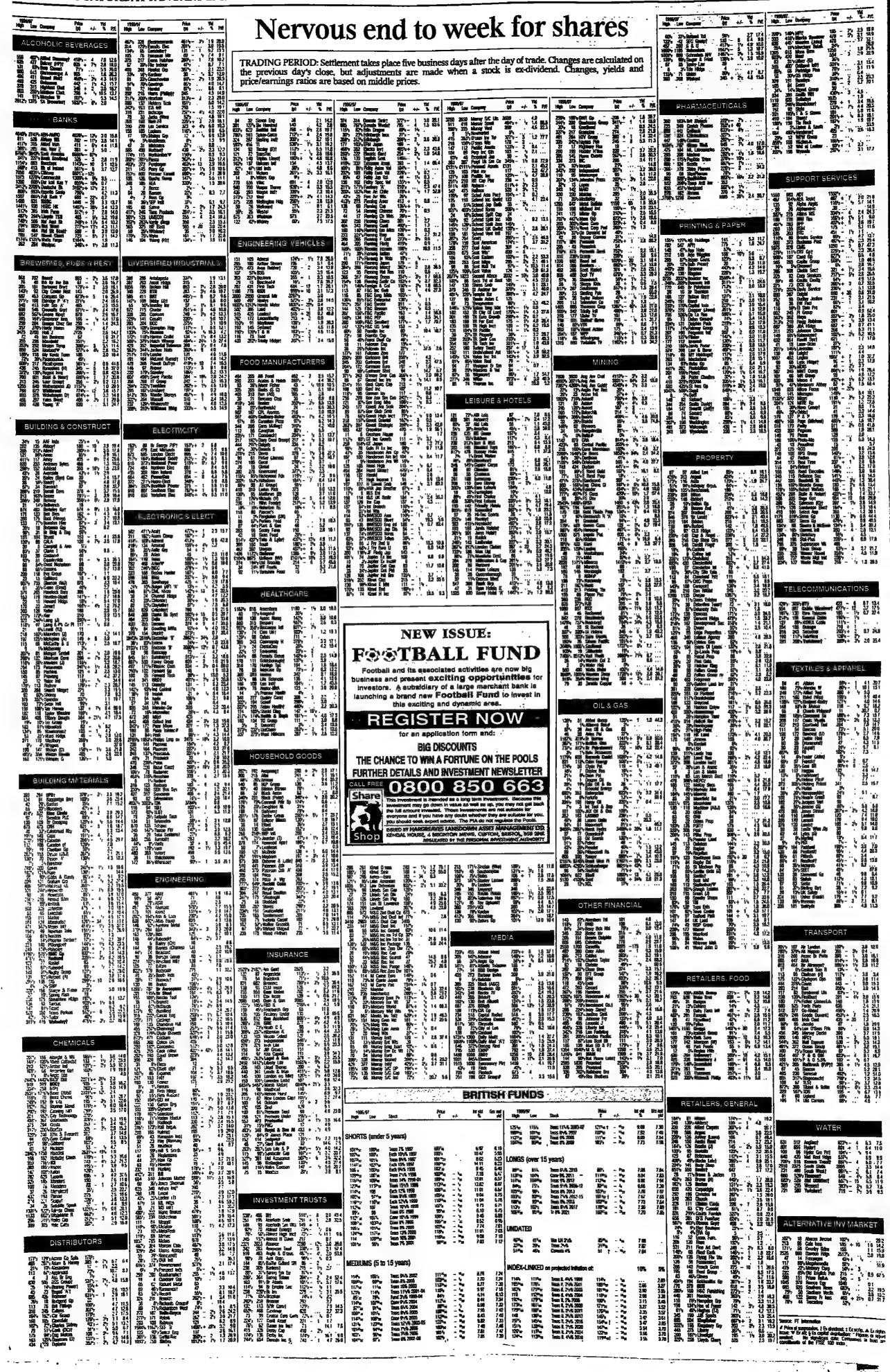
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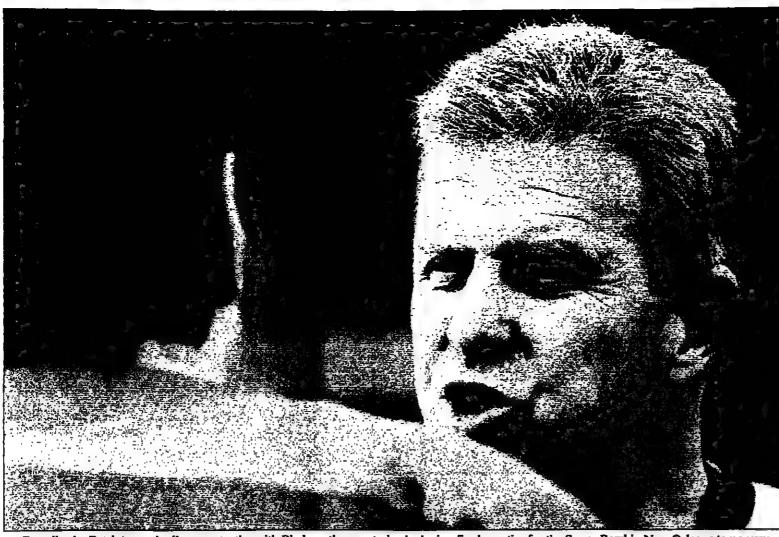
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AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NATION WILLS GREEN BAY TO BEAT NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS



Parcells, the Patriots coach, discusses tactics with Bledsoe, the quarterback, during final practice for the Super Bowl in New Orleans tomorrow

Packers chase American dream

FROM OLIVER HOLT IN NEW ORLEANS

BRIAN LEE is blind now but he has a favourite image stored up in his mind's eye. Every night, between numbers at the Old Absinthe House Bar on Bourbon Street this week, he has hushed his blues band and shared the memory with the lucky few who have squeezed into the darkness before the queues start outside the door.

There are probably none of you ever heard of Tobin Roat," he says, "none of you who could tell me what position he played. Well, he was the QB for the Packers back in the Fifties. He could run, he could throw, he could do everything, baby." His long beard twitches and then the harmonica starts to wail.

They have existed on memories like that for 30 years now, Green Bay Packers, feasting in particular on the legend of Vince Lombardi, the coach first two Super Bowls - in 1967 and 1968. That linked their name forever to the

golden age of the sport, a time when athletic ability and honest endeavour on the field counted for more than image and trash-talking.

Lombardi was an intenselydriven disciplinarian with something of the aura of Bill Shankly, a coach who had an attitude to the pursuit of victory similar to that of the revered Liverpool manager. Winning is not everything, he once said. "It is the only thing." Such was his reputation that the National Football League (NFL) named the Super Bowl trophy after him

Tomorrow night; here at the Louisiana Superdome in the heart of the city, the Packers will have a golden chance to win that trophy for the first time. Super Bowl XXXI is likely to be closer-fought than many of its recent predecessors but Green Bay are still short-priced favourites to overcome New England Patriots and extend the domination of ence to a 13-year stretch.

States bar the Patriots fans collapsing around them.



seems to be rooting for the Packers. Partly it is because they have become the nation's favourite underdogs in the long years of drought since Lombardi left after their second Super Bowl triumph. But the stronger reason is that the Packers represent an idealised image of what Americans

want their teams to be. They respect them because they play outdoors in the bitter Wisconsin winters at their famous Lambeau Field rather than retreating to a covered stadium like their near neighbours, Minnesota Vikings, and they warm to them because they play in a small working-class community that values that supporters in larg-Everyone in the United er metropolitan areas can see

The reality, of course, is not quite the same and the Packers' whiter-than-white image was tarnished when their quarterback, Brett Favre, admitted before the start of last season that he was undergoing treatment for addiction to painkillers.

Still, when that is compared with the seedy antics of Dallas Cowboys players, the succession of scandals they have brought upon themselves in the past two years, the drug convictions and the battery charges, it is little wonder that the country is searching around for a more worthy bearer for the accolade of

'America's Team". Favre, a gritty, charismatic leader of men, is fast becoming America's hero, too. If he can steady himself at the beginning of tomorrow's game, a time when he is notoriously inconsistent and over-excitable, the Packers should subdue the Patriots. whose only other appearance 1986, when they were routed 46-10 by Chicago Bears.

They are a sturdier proposi-

division: Brimsdown Hes v Weltham Abbey: Brook House v Islington St Marys, Hanngey v Ruslip Manor; Hälingdon Boro v Wood-

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES

If Bledsoe and Favre are both in top form it will be like watching two boxers going at it toe-to-toe. Whatever the result, it is unlikely to be a low-scoring game.

tion now that Bill Parcells, the

former coach of New York

Giants, is at the helm and, if

they shock the Packers, he will

become the first man in the

history of the sport to lead two

different teams to Super Bowl

victories — and that despite a

bitter battle with the Patriots'

owner. Bob Kraft, that

prompted a Boston newspaper

to print a picture of them both

on its back page yesterday underneath the headline: The

With the Giants, Parcells

relied on a formidable de-

fence, but his best weapons

with the Patriots are in his

offence. Apart from Drew

Bledsoe, the leader of a new generation of young quarter-backs, the Patriots have got

one of the best wide receivers

in the game in the rookie, Terry Glenn, a fine tight end

in Ben Coates and a mercurial

running back in Curtis

Big Uneasy.

In Xanadu did Wigan a stately ski-jump decree

IT IS with a hand trembling with delight and disbelief that I smite the keyboard for this week's offering. For I learn, to my inexpressible delight that - after a decade and more of championing from this column - planning permission has at last been given for the first British

It took a place as bold as Wigan to give support to the idea. Where local authorities all over Britain have held back, Wigan alone march forward. Permission has been granted for a ski-jumping hill as part of the huge "Xanadu" ski centre project.

A 60-metre hill would be big enough for international competition among the Lowlander jumping nations; this would be too daunting for beginners and there are hopes for hills of 25 and 40 metres as well. Wigan has always been a centre for stout-hearted sporting people and the Wigan ski-jump at Xanadu would extend that tradition in a wonderful fashion: a stately pleasure-dome for the young eagles.

All out of love

All America has thrilled to the story of Michael Volpe, the alienated baseball fan. Volpe, a person formerly devoted to San Francisco Giants, withdrew his support from the club when they traded the slugging Matt Williams to Chicago White Sox. Volpe packed up three decades worth of Giants memorabilia and posted it back to the club, with the message: "I am divorcing you from my baseball life." He then wrote to all the other 27 major league baseball teams. offering to be their ian and asking why he should sup-port their dub.

This has provoked national debate, and many responses. John Marcon, PR man at Baltimore Orioles, had Voipe driven from his home in Virginia to the ball-park, gave him lunch and a tour of the stadium. Perhaps it is the most rational approach to the concept of being a fan yet devised: what's in it for me?

Getting shirty

ues to cause dismay. Vince Sherry, of Reebok, the company that has introduced the





On Saturday.

unadjacent to money, explained that market research had shown the most popular colours for leisurewear are black, white and blue.

Gold, he said, was way down the list, and that explains why the most popular rugby shirts are those of New Zealand, France and Eng-land. The retention of the gold jumper was not commercially viable."

Clearly, the first question to ask when considering any sporting outfit is: does it look all right with jeans? That is why we got the unspeakable grey England football strip.
Oh, and a new-style Aussie shirt costs A\$120.

Hale and hearty Fat goalie round-up: Jose-Luis Chilavert, the Paraguay international, returning to his Argentinian club Velez Sarsfield, was criticised in the deliciously-named Ole magazine for an excess of adipose tissue. Chilavert solved the problem by seeking out the reporter, one Juan Pablo Mender, and whacking him. Meanwhile, René Higuita, who retired

lf you ask me, that Journalist was right

The hideous new Australia rugby union jersey, abandoning the famous gold, contin-

new shirt for reasons not

Manning OB v Notibborough.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Arthur Durm Guer.

Second round: Chigwellers v Selopian.

Repanners v Foreslers. Premier division.

Lancing v Chameleisis; Witelams v

from football after his home in Medellin, Colombia, was blown up, has announced that he will now unretire. His club said they would be happy to accommodate him - once he has solved his

Agenda setting

weight problem.

I have received an intriguing letter from Bob Stone, who quotes from a letter sent out to members of Surrey County Cricket Club: "In view of the recent cricketing events within the club, it has been decided that 'Cricket' should be an agenda item at the forthcoming AGM."

Lion cows Wolves

It is with some glee that I report that Lofty the Lion is in trouble. Lofty, the Bolton Wanderers mascot, named insultingly after Nat Loft-house, the Lion of Vienna, has been upsetting supporters of Wolverhampton Wanderers. They found the antics of a man dressed up in a stupid furry suit "intimidating" at the match between the

two clubs last weekend. Lofty's 'half-time' routine angered the Wolverhampton away faris, so much so that they showered him with pies, and a brawl broke out as spectators fought each other to get at the cuddly lion.

"He was intimidating the crowd at half-time, and that was stupid;" Michael Bates. treasurer of the Wolves Supporters Club, said. Bolton's chief executive, Des McBain. responded with that ghastly archness that invariably afflicts people when they discuss mascots: "I have discussed the incident with Lofty and he is quite upset about the whole thing."

Blood runs thick

More goalies: Aaron and Darryi Flahavan are brothers and goalies and this week, they were on opposite sides, Darryl for Southampton reserves and Aaron for

Portsmouth reserves. Life is a hard business for goalkeepers: after ten minutes. Darryl came out of his area to head clear, and collected a boot in the head. He left the pitch covered in blood, returned after 15 minutes and five stitches, but had to surrender at half-time. At the other end, Aaron was a spectator as Portsmouth

Constributes v Ayr
Glewothes v Haddington
Hitiwad Jordenhill v Gordoniens
Langholm v Grangemouth

Ballymena v Shernon
Blackrock College v Terenure College
Garryowen v Instonians
Lensdown v Cork Constitution

Insurance Corporation League

went on to win 5-1.

Fourth division

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FORTURES BNOSLEIGH INSUINANCE MICHAND COMBINATION: Premier dividion: Amecharch v Coverney Sprince Biston Community College v Wordsstern Bolehal S v Coleshil; David Lloyd v Shriey; Handrahim Timbers v West Midland Fire Servicer Kings Heart v Welshesbourne. Mar Kid v Hidrosific. AFA SENIOR CUP: Third round: Cardinal

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	FOOTBALL
	tick-off 3.0 unless stated
	donates all-ticket match
	Julis coupon numbers in trackets

- FA Cup Third round Brentford v Manchester City
 Coventry v Woking Third-round replays
- (-) Leads v Crystal Palace (-) Wost Harn v Wresham (-) Bollon v Luton Fourth round
- (1) Birmingham v Stockport (2) Blackburn v Coventry/Woking (3) "Cartsis v Shelfield Wednesday (4) Everton v Bradford (5) Derby v Aston Villa (5) Hednesford v Middlestrough (at Reversde Stadium)
- 6) Leicester villorwich 7) Manchester Utd v Wimbledon
- Nationwide League First division

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(---) Bristol City v Bournemouth
(11) Burnley's Preston
(---) Gillingham v Pyrnouth
(---) Rotherham v Crewe
(---) Strewsbury v Peterborough - i Walsall v Notts County

(—) Walsall v Nohs County			
i) Wycomb	e v York		
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Wagons	25 9 13 3 26	20 40	
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	nn U v Geneerd R	angers.	
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Thed division (12) Barnel v Darington (13) Brighton v Rochdale (14) Cambridge Utd v Herstord . (15) Cardfil v Hull (18) Normampton v Hamepool (19) Scanbrough v Leyton Onent (120) Scunthorpe v Fulham (21) Torquay v Mansfield (22) Wigan v Swansea PW D L F A Fulham 28 17 5 6 48 23 Vigan 26 15 5 6 48 28 Vigan 26 15 5 6 48 28 Torquey Colchester Scarborough Manafield ... Chester Scumporpe

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UniBond League Premier division (32) Alirelon v Manne (33) Barrow v Runcom (34) Blyth Sparans v Winslord (35) Burton v Bishop Audidand (36) Colwyn Bay v Gusseley (37) Emley v Knowsley (38) Gainsborough v Chorley (—) Hyde v Frickley

Dr Martens League (39) Ashford / Chelmsford (49) Almerstone v Worcester City (41) Baldock v Newport AFC (42) Burton v Salisbury (43) Dochester v Cambridge City (44) Gloucester v Cambridge City (—) Halesowen v Crawley (--) Merthyr v Hastings (--) Nuneaton v King's Lynn , (--) Sittingbourne v Cheltenham (--) Sudbury Tn v Gravesend & N

Bell's Scottish League (---) Strantaer v Stenhorssemin Third dimmon - Altron v Forfar Tennents Scottish Cup Third round

(---) Arbroath v Greenock Morton (---) Dundee v Queen of South (---) Dunfermine v Ross Count –) Fulmamock v East Stirling (46) Partick v Motherwell ... (47) Queen's Park v East Fife (48) Rangars v St Johnstone (49) Stirting v Dundee Utd WELSH CUP: Fourth round: Maesteg Park

DH MARTENS LEAGUE Medium divisions
Corby v Paget R. Everham v Shepahad D:
Grantham v Reddisch Misster Raums I v
Startord, Solhull Body v Tamenthr Stoubridge v Rothwell, Suban Courseld Town v
Bedworth VS Rugby v Hindley Town v
Bedworth VS Rugby v Hindley Town v
Margate, Conderlord v Wimey Erith and
Belvedere v Chrenostrer Town Fareham v
Havarit, Forest Green v Baskley, Newtonth
(oW) v Cawodon, S. Leonards v Yale,
Troutondge v Dardord Waterbondle v Fleet
T, Weston-suber-Share v Fisher London;
Weymouth v Torbindge Angas
Kiss LEAGUE: Premise divisions Bromley v
Sutton Linded Degeman at a Rec v Verall
Owned v Purface, Says v Beshoot,
Stortford Heriadh v Emeld Highin v
Bonsham Wood, Arganiam v, Startes
Ordord Gra v Yeshang, S. America, Herbindge;
Barron Roves v
Leyton Permant Accessors Town Stockshope PS
GRIBERT LEAGUE OF WALES Aperyshavin v Cornains Out. British Ferry v.
Newtown Caerains a Flor Town Bornaes
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JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE First division. Lymogram v Presonant. Aerostructures v Downton; BAT v Andower
Bournemouth v Bosport Experiment v Takan Christimum v Rice Sports V Process
Takan Christimum v Ryde Sports, Cones
Sports v Petershird Eastergh: Thurstain
Town Ramsey v Whitamum Auritome
Town V East Cones

FOOTBALL

LEAGUE OF WALES: Barry v Caemarton

(2 10) Fai harp lager national league:

FAI HAPP LAGER MATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Bray v. S. Patholis Aft. (2.0), Sharmock v. Shop (3.15). FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: Southernpton v. Arsenal lat Totton, 2.0). Wembley v. Blasson for Womther FC. 2.0). FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division: North County, Bracthord Sheffeld Wocheoday v. Garandod St. Helens Soutpart v. Muchaeffeld, Whiterhampton, Aston Villa. Southern divisions: Brofitton and Hore v. Wimbledon, Igsandh v. Whiterhamb, Oldon Fes v. Benthamstead, Three Bridges v. Langford. Town and County v. Leyton Opera.

HOCKEY

MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Cannock v Scartigate (at Morns Ground, 2:30) Guidated v Hoursdow (at

Fick-off 30 unless stated

Tennents Scottish Cup Third round

Chydebank v Cettic

FA Cup Fourth round

DOURAGE COMESNED COUNTIES LEAGUE Premiser division: Ashford v Chostead, Ash v Raymes Park Valor. Bediont v Carrieght Cobham v Reacting Town Contribian-Casuals v Sandhurst. Cove v Godalmang and Guildord: Farnham v Mersham; Harriey Winney v Westfield; Neutreme v Feltham: Walton Causuls v Viong Sports Walton Sports Parket Walton Causuls v Viong Sports A County Cardina Parket Valor Canada V Margarderi V Toddington, Lohanworth Varger Sporta, Porters Bar v Royston, Walton Garden v Millon Keynes Sportew Di Delectri League Premise division: Brodont Brisington v Tauritan Bristol Manor Farm v Tomnigton, Catho v Bacievel Direct v Westbury, Odd Down v Chardt Paulton R v Mangotefield, Tiverton v Chipperham Iverton v Chapperham

JEWISON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE Premar division; Feliostowe P and T

V Subbury, Hadlegh IV stury Town Scham

v Whosham Stammarket v Diss Tophes v
Newmarket Warboys v Clactor; Wattern v
March March LIMILET BUSSEX COLINTY LEAGUE: Pier Maiori Pussex County League: Pive division: Eastbourne Town v Whitehawk; Hassooks v Calwood Langney Sports v Storeham. Mile Cali v Pagham Seltdean v Burgess Hill, Selsey v Horstam YMCA. Southwick v Arundal, Time Bridges v Wisk, WhitsTONLEAD WONT LEAGUE: Fine division: Crockenhall v Ramsgabe Cup: Second round: Carterbury v Torbridge. Doal v Bedenham Furness v State Green, Greenwich v Folkestone Invota, Herne Bay v Wootwich Hythe v Connthan, Lorowood v Sheppey Thamesmead v Cray HELLENIC LEAGUE: Pramier division: Abrigdon United v Wartaga Almondsbury v Bacesler, Barsbury v Lamboum Sports Bursham v Didod Cartetion v Kintbury; Endsleigh v Shortwood; Highworth v North Leigh, Swendon Supermanne v Farford; rutley v Brackley.

Biskerhall
PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND
LEAGUE Dign v Nam County Fort Wilson
budge Treate Fraserburgh v Brora. Koth
Deveronvale, Losserburgh v Cove.
Romes v Hurrify Wick Academy v
Paterbard

west v Cardit Institute, Newtown v Cardi Athletic. Penarth v Pontypnod, Swansea Cotwyn Bay

RUGBY UNION

European Contamina Final

Saracens v Wasos (3.05)

Bourgoin v Castres (at Beziers, 2 0)

Pilkington Cup Septi round

munity College v Worcesterr, Botehall S v
Coleshal; David Lloyd v Shriley, Handrahan
Timbers v West Middand Fire Sarvicer Kings
Heart v Weltesbourne, Mer KA v Highgate;
Southam v Massey Ferguson.

LIP-LSPORT UNITED COLLINITIES LEAGUE Premier division: Desborough v
Cogenhoe; Bynasbury v S and L Corby
Ford Sports v Stamford; Holbeach v
Soutiok: Long Buckby v Kempoton:
Mintess Bachazine v St Neous, Municip
Pagneti v Northampton Spenotir, Potton v
Spatidhay, Wellingborough v Booton;
Westion v Burne
BUNGS'S BURNETY LEAGUE Premier
division: Brestey Hill T v Wolverhampton C:
Erangshall H v Timdalir; Goma Ries v
Welsall Wood: Ludlow T v Lye Town;
Variation T v Cradley Town; Wednesfield v
Hill Top R: Westifields v Blowech S;
Wolverhampton Ltd v Stoupport S.
NORTH WEST COLINITIES LEAGUE Fract
division: Burscough v Maine Road, Darwen v
Backport Russers, Holler Old Boys v
Bootle, Kidsgrove v Glossop North End;
Mossiey v Vaudrall GM; Newcastle Town v
St Hetens; Preson Cables v Atherton
Colleres, Rossendale v Eastwood H;
Sahord V Oradderton; Fernith v Collegion;
Trafford v Natherhol Town
North-Rentwich Town
North-Rentwich Town
North-Rentwich Town
North-Rent Collering Rest LEAGUE
Premier division. Deny v Shelbourle
Fladue; First division: Bedington Temers
v Nathon
FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE First
division: Cambridge Uld v Cellingtam
(11 0); Fulfram v Southernd (11 0); Ipswinch v
Cheisan (11 0); Loyens Park Rangors v
Normch Chy (Wilford v Azense (11 10); Bourner
Callering Wilford v Colchester Und
(12 0); Wilford v Azense (11 10); Bourner
Callering Wilford v Colchester Und
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Lanong v Cholmeletens; Withdens v Eronkans.
SOUTHERN AMATEUR! LEAGUE: Pints division: Carchalton v Polytechnic, Crosch End Vampores v West Widdhern; NotWest Bank v Civil Service; Norsement v Old Actomans; Old Estheritens v Old Permitertans; South Bank v East Barnet OS., SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Service one: Alberian v Ward; Partisled v Hate End An. Ulyses v St Mary's Col.
SCHOOLS MATCHES (Idel-off 10:30 Unless stated): FA Premiter League Trophy: Under-19: Merseyscle v West Yorkshire Under-19: Snickess Under-19 Trophy; Ardingly Coll v Sandown HS (2:16); Cardinal Vaughari v Harvey GS. OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS: AAA Indoor championahpa (National Indoor Arena, Birningham).

BASKETBALL: Budwelser Leegue: Derby v Sheffield (7:30); Leicester v Newcastle (7:30), Manchester v Crystal Palaco (7:30); Herrel and Westlord v London (7:30); Worthing v Leopards (8:0), National League: Merr, First division: Cardiff v Pyrnouth (8:0), Coverdy v Bury and Bolton (7:30); Mid Susset v Nottingham (7:30); Solent v Guidford (8:0); Wers v Westlanster (8:0); Second division: Bournemouth v Solinut (8:0); Chessingon v South Bank (8:0); Northampton v Phrashire (8:0); Sheffield v Sough (8:0) Women: First division: Birmingham v Crystal Palace (4:0); Harlesden v Phondos (7:0); Northampton v Institute (6:0), Sheffield v London (6:0); Spetitione v Nottingham (8:0). Second division: Leicester v Dorocaster (5:0); Manchester v Soleni (4:0); Oxford v Plymouth (6:0). OTHER SPORT Cup (11 u).

CLD BOYS' LENGUE Product Gridden

Clapham OX v Old Meadonians. Old Hamptonians v Old Ringsburans, Old Vaughtanians v Latymer OB

Presson).

ICE HOCKEY: Superleaguer, Neucadle v Manchester (6.30), Notinghem v Brachnell (7.0), Shetheld v Ayr (7.0); Basingstoles v Cardiff (6.30). Shetheld v Ayr (7.0); Basingstoles v Cardiff (6.30).

LACKOSSE: Shepherde Friendly Society Leaguer, Premier division: Boardman, and Eccles v Timosdey. Heston Mersey v Hulmeare: Old Waconians v Cheedle Hulme, Cheedle v Moorthope, Mellor v Poynton

SNOOKER: Regal Welsh tournament (at Newport) SOUASH: Bitish championships (in VOLLEYBALL: National League: Women: Loughborough v Birningham (4.20).

TOMORROW

Kings Manor School, 12:0), Old Loughtonans v Canterbury (at Chigwell, 130) Reading v Havarit (at Sonning Lare, 2:0). Surodon v East Constead (at Sugdon-Road 2:30). Teddondron v Bastron Tiges; (at Dures Meadows, Chownot, 12:0) Frot division. City of Portsmouth v Hull (at Alexandra Park, Portsmouth, 13:0); Crostyn, v Brooklands (at Chigwell, 1:0) Doncasser v Bronnley (at Barmerthope, 2:0); Edgoston v Bournoville (at Barmerthope, 2:0); Edgoston (at Porterands) v Bueston (at Porterands); 130); Harleston (at Porterands); 130; Harleston (at Roddermarcter School, 1:30); Vannington v Lewes (at Stondham Lane 1:30); Wommen's Wellsh (League Heventodess); Cardell Instatute, Newtown v Cardell (athlete, Newtown v Cardell (athlete); Paramer v Protopodd Saessee v V Courage Clubs Championship Richmond v Bedford (2 30) ... Tour match Landon Irish v Otaco (2.30) Swalec Cup Secti round

Neath v Abercynon (2.30). Newport v Cardiff (2.30) RUGBY LEAGUE Silk Cut Challenge Cup Third round

Batley v Prasco (3.13)
Carisile v BRK (2.0)
Doncaster v Outton (2.0)
Featherstone v Moldgreen (3.30)
Hudlerstend v Moldgreen (3.30)
Hudlerstend v Moldgreen (3.30)
Hull v Lock Lene (3.15)
Hull Kingston Rovers v Mayfield (3.0)
Kerghley v Radhill (3.0)
Leigh v Wigen St Patricles (3.0)
Rochdale v Watney Central (3.0)
Swinton v Gramley (3.0)
Wakeheld v Ovenden (3.30)
Whitehaven v Shirlaugh (2.0)
Windnes v Clayton (2.0)
Workergton v Thatto Heath (3.0)
York v Dudley Hill (3.0) OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS: AAA Indoor chemiplonehip (Netional Indoor Arene, Birmingham). Netional Indicor Arena, Brinkingham).

BASKETBALL: Budweiser Leegue: Birmingham v Hernel and Watford 7.0); Chrester v Manchester (6 0); Newcassie v Worthing 7.0); Sheffield v Thermes Valley (5 30).

7-UP Trophy: Quartir-Shall, second leg: London (111) v Leopards (79) (70).

National Leegue: Marx. First chilation: Britation v Stockon (4.0); Cherpool v Oxford (3 30); Plymouth v Solent (4.0). Second distribut. London v Aston (2:0); Swendon v South Wates (4 0); Thermes Valley v Derby (6.0). Women: First chilation: Tharms valley v Barling and Degerwarm (4.0). Second division: Tyne and Wear v Chelmstord (2 0). BOWLS: World indoor championships (in

ICE HOCKEY: Superleaguer. Ayr v Nozing ham (8.0); Menchester, v Besingstoke (8.0) Bracknes v Newcastle (6.0), Cardin Shelfield (6.0). SNOOKER: Regal Welsh tournament lat

VOLLEYBALL: National League: Essen

RUGBY UNION" Kick-off 2 30 unless stated Heineken Cup Final

Brive v Laiosetar (at Cardill Arms Peric)

Gloucester v Bristol (3 0)
London Scotish v Newcastle (3.0)
Northampton v Coventry (3.0)
Ornel v Sele (3.0)
Rotherhem v Harlequins (2.15)
Wakefield v Moseley Courage Clubs Championship Third division

I nard division
Exeter v Wherfedele (3.0)
Hamogate v Rosslyn Park (2.16)
Leeds v Presching (3.0)
London Wetsh v Otley (2.15)
Lydney v Liverpool St Helens (3.0)
Hednuth v Havant
Welsali v Clifton

Fourth division north Aspetia v Lichfield
Hereford v Preston Gresshoppere
Manchester v Stourbridge (2.15)
Nuneston v Kanolar
Stotte-on-Trent v Wordester
Winnington Park v Sendal Fourth division south

Askeans v Beny Hiji
Cambertey v Berking
Chellesham v Weston-augur-Mare
Newbury v Cheston Perk (3:0)
North Westsham v Hersey
Pyrnouth v High Wycombe
Tabard v Metropotter Police (2.15) Ref International Copy Settle Copy Settle

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Crasse and Namestich v Locolnicapogn.
Saudents: Fluodensteid YMCA v Old
Abbolstonians; Southport v Alcester,
South: Planestick v Wells: Tacley v
Folkestoner: Torphologs v Haspendare,
Topsham v Hadisign. Swalec Cup - Shith round

Aberavon v Sobw Vale
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Cross Keys v Abertillery
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Llandovery v Pyle
Neeth v Abacynon
Newcastle Entlyn v Cillach Goch
Penygraig v Carmerthen Cuins
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Portypool V Pencoed Phymney v Treorchy South Wates Police v Biacley Swensea v Durivant Whitland v Ystradgyniais Weish League Second division Cardill Institute v Bonymeen THIRD DIVISION: Narbeith y Merthyo Tondu y Mountain Ash.

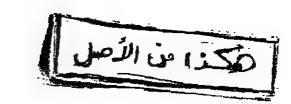
Termenus Premienena. First division Boroughmutr v Stirling County Currie v Watsoniana Hawick v Heriot's FP Jed-Forest v Meirose 🗅 Second division Edinburgh Academicals v Kelso.......

Third division Poebles v Selitirk Preston Lodge v Kirkceldy Stewart's Mehalle FP v Glas

Old Belvedere v Dungannon Old Wesley v Old Crescent Young Munster v St Mary's College Second division Cloritari v NFC
Dolphin v Bective Rangers
Greystones v Sunday's Well
Medone v Denry
Monkstown v UCC CLUB MATCHES: Rugby v Laughborough Students (3.0); West Harriepool v Waterloo RUGBY LEAGUE Nick-off 20 unless stated Silk Cut Challenge Cup Third round Lanceshire Lynx v Huli Dockers (3.0) NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Pre-mier division: Beverey v Leigh Miners; Egremont v Hewardh. First division: Eastmoor v Wigen St. Judes; Leigh East v Barrow istand; Thomhill v Askarn Second division: Featifierstone Amsteur v Normanton; New Earswick v Fooles; Shaw Cross v Millord. HOCKEY MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE First division: Sauspost v Besston (at Kicderminster School, 1.20)

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE Premier
League: Ashtord v Wimbledon, Bedenham v Woldingham: Bournerroutin v High
Wycorabie: Pasehasin v Spansar: Gore Court
v Ancharians: Hampsteact/Westminster v
Wolding: Maidschaad v Old Kingstoniads;
Richmond v Old Wingstiffers: Turbridge
Wells v Remgarhia; Wincheeter v Chrinenter. Hearpstime/Sausmy: Barnes v Duistort, Andoner v Besingstoke; Camberley v
Old Wellsounthine; Southempton v Blandbord; Pulmy v Ober, London Umwersty v
Porserrouti. Old Mid-Whitiglitters v
Peterrified: Epoinn v Chesm, Oshorit v Old
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Bognor, Belvedenv Blandhasth; Horno Bay
v Baddy Instat: Horshern v Lloyds Bark;
Merden Bussets v Besteyheath; Middaton v
Brighton; Mid Sussex v Sevencalus; Old
Bordenians v Worthing: Old Holcombeans
v Tutse. Hel; Old Wildramenisms v Eastbourne. Middor/Sertes/Backs: and OnexFarnham Common v Bradenel; Llone v
Harrow; Martcar v Hayes; Mil Hill v West
Harrow; Suspiner; Ordenies v Choronical
Const, Hardington; Nations v Choronical
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Suddardin; Luchon Town; Remgarit v
North Southport v Timperley; Swalwell v
West Verwickusher; Harrborne v Khalles
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West Verwickusher; Hampston v North
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RUGBY UNION

Locks capable of opening door to Leicester triumph

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

FROM small beginnings little more than a year ago, the Herneken Cup - the European club competition - has climbed into adulthood with remarkable speed. Judged on quality and popularity, the tournament, which reaches its final in Cardiff today when Leicester play Brive, has already achieved a status little lower than that of international rugby. That it has done so despite

the doubts raised last October, when ITV withdrew its support less than a formight before the 1996-97 competition began, is testimony to the belief in the concept from the clubs involved. Whatever the result this afternoon at the Arms Park, marketing next season should be considerably easier, given that the match will be televised live in 18 countries.

That alone places a responsibility upon European Rugby Cup Ltd, the organisers, to ensure quality rather than quantity. The size of the 1997-98 tournament is likely to remain the same, with 20 sides involved but playing home and away, and it is vital that the competition does not outrun its strength merely because more clubs want a share of a pot which, if small this season, will surely bubble

over in years to come. "It's important the quality is not diluted," Bob Dwyer, the Leicester director of coaching, said yesterday. Twenty clubs is plenty and doubting the number of matches at this evel is quite enough: It should help to ensure that more players become available to

15 S Viere

t4 G'Fabra

19 C Lamaison

10 A Penaud (captain) -

9 P Carbonneau

12 D Venditti

G Kacsin

8 F Dubolasat

the national selectors because you are more certain about their quality. That's what the Super 12 has done for a side like Australian Capital

Territory."
That few would have forecast a final between Leicester and Brive has been part of the competition's charm this season, yet both arrive in Cardiff unbeaten in Europe and worthy representatives of England and France. On the back of their efforts, both clubs have elevated individuals to national squads, most notably David Venditti, the Brive centre, who last Saturday

34-19, bt Caledona (a) 32-30, b Hartequine (h) 23-10, bt Ulster (a) 17-6 Ouerter-finale: bt Lienell (h) 35-14 Semi-finale; bt Cardill (h) 25-13.

(e) 27-10; bi Scothish Borders (h) 43-3; bt Peu (e) 19-14, bt Llanedi (h) 25-16 Quanter-finelis: bt Harlequins (h) 23-13. Semi-finelis: bt Toulouse (h) 37-13.

scored three tries against Ireland on the France wing; but they have also made this a final which some 45,000 want

we have improved enormously as the competition has gone on," Alain Penaud, the Brive captain and France stand-off half, said. "There is real desire and, just as important when we are playing British sides, discipline. We realty believe we can follow on from Toulouse and make it two French wins in the first two years of this competition."

Perhaps an obvious differ-Most significant of all, Brive LEICESTER O ·· J Liley R Liley it for Leicester. G Rowntree

> a cross-border competition this weekend when Paris University Club entertain Oxford and Rome host Cambridge, though financial restrictions inhibit the expan-TV: 88C1: from 2.15pm sion of this tournament. The second legs will be played in Cambridge in a fortnight.

have shown an ability to win away, which, thus far, has affected their league displays in the French championship. Belfast is never the easiest of venues, as Harlequins discovered in the autumn, but Brive beat Ulster and Caledonia, the best of the Scottish district teams. Likewise, Leicester became one of only two English clubs (Northampton, in the European Conference, being the other) to win in France. against Pau. Leicester will start today as

slight favourites, but will justily that only if they achieve a significant advantage in one of the game's basic areas, most probably the lineout. That is a phase to which Brive have paid particular attention this week, knowing the prowess of Martin Johnson and Matt Poole, his sometimes unconsidered partner at lock.

Dwyer believes that the clubs are similar in style, yet there is a physical presence in the Brive back row which Leicester lack, notably that offered by Gregori Kacala, the Polish flanker. Kacala weighs in at around 17 stone and many of Brive's forward charges will start with him. There is an onus, therefore, on Neil Back and Dean Richards to arrest his progress before he hits the Leicester midfield.

The beauty of this game, though, is that both sides can strike from so many different parts of the pitch - from full back, where John Liley and Sebastien Viars have attacking ambitions, from midfield and from the back row.

ence is that between Austin Healey and Philippe Carbonneau at scrum half. Carbonneau may be more content to be the servant of those outside him than Healey, whose pure pace and eye for the break have catapulted him into the England squad. If this game is to be אסיח באַ זו אַ אַכּ אַכּו ווּס אַלים מסאי genius — and it may be — then Healey could be the man to do

C Europe's leading universities sustain their ambitions for



Greenwood leads Wells, centre, and Back through the Toulouse defence during the Heineken Cup semi-final. Photograph: Dave Rogers/Allsport

Greenwood central to change of tack

n the days before Dean Richards, the Leicester back division was the envy of England. Four times during the 1983-84 season, five of them played together for England, among them Paul Dodge and Clive Woodward, that superbly-complementary pair of centres, and anyone who suggested that the club would develop the best pack in the land would have been

laughed to scorn. They did, though, and in the 1990s the Leicester backs became the target of distinctly aundiced comments. Even at the start of this season, they looked to be playing, under the direction of Bob Dwyer, a game with which they were ill at ease; but they have not reached the Heineken Cup final on the back of Richards and his forwards alone - now they have a hard and skilful core, at the heart of which are Will Greenwood and Austin y, anen irogi ibe Noru It is no coincidence that

Healey is now in the England senior squad as the replacement scrum half and that Greenwood is to captain England A. Their development has been one of the most exciting aspects of this season and the responsibility awarded to Greenwood is a sign of a player maturing in every way, Even though Dwyer dismiss es speculation that Green-wood should follow Dodge

David Hands analyses the man who epitomises the return of the halcyon days of free-flowing back play to Welford Road

and Woodward into England's midfield - yet - he has come to view him with increasing admiration.

"You put people up for England selection far too easily." Dwyer, the former Australia World Cup coach, said, "It requires a special player with a special attitude and a special set of skills to play at that level. If you'd asked me at the start of the season about Will Greenwood, I would have said he was vastly overrated. Now I think he is an outstanding inside centre; he plays with fiair, he could get stronger, he could develop more vision. We're working on

In fact, the move to inside centre has been the making of Greenwood, whose formative ays were spent Grasshoppers and Waterloo. It has brought him more possession, more decisionmaking and he enjoys that.

When he left Durham University, the City beckoned employment as a broker and a place at Harlequins. "I was starting to enjoy myself in London, I made a lot of friends at Harlequins and when I left last year there was no antagonism," Greenwood,

24, said, "but Leicester offered me a great opportunity people may have thought it easy for me, to play in the Quins back division with people like Wili Carling and Jim Staples, but Leicester allowed me to see what I could do as an individual." Initially, Greenwood had to

make the decision whether to piay professional rugby fulltime. He found that City life and training twice a day were not compatible and accepted - 1 DU every opportunity to find out how good I am," he said, "and questions of the England selectors, I'll do so." Greenwood discovered

swiftly that reputations counted for nothing at Welford Road, either with the new director of rugby or his play-ing colleagues. When I first arrived it looked as though there were two separate entities, backs and forwards, two ideas about how to play the game," he said. "Bob has got everyone working together, but we haven't over-complicated things in the backs and, slowly, all the hard work of the past few months is paving dividends.

"I had to convince Bob first of all that I was worth a place, and that wasn't easy. I picked up a dead leg against West Hartlepool, pulled a hamli fin early Novemberf that I felt we turned a corner. I'm as if I can keep asking awkward fit now as I've ever been and I the highest level.

dence in me - I try to give the forwards a target to aim for, but at the same time I can help to bring the backs out of their shells. Maybe some of them have been in awe of the forwards in the past, perhaps they have trodden warily."

At 6ft 5in and 15 stone. Greenwood can happily stand toe-to-toe with many a lock. but among his assets are a feel for the ball and an eye for the gap, which, once he is halfway through, creates havoc for defenders, since he is light on his feet for so big a man. Responsibility rests easily

on his shoulders, the legacy of Richard, his father, who briefcaptained England from the back row in 1969 before an eve injury disrupted his international career. Since Greenwood Sr also coached England, in the mid-1980s, the rugby pedigree is sound. The final today against Brive's another sounding board for those who believe that Will Greenwood can also play at

Proud record precedes Rotherham

BY CHRISTOPHER INVINE

REPLACEMENTS: 16 S Bonnet, 17 R

Parliat, 18 C Heymans, 19 T Labrousse, 20 A Ress, 21 E Bouti, 22 Y Dommi,

WHO, precisely, are the underdogs at Clifton Lane today in the Pilkington Cup sixth round? Five championships, six promotions in eight years and a league record of 99 wins, second only to Bath, is some curriculum vitae and it belongs to Rotherham, not Harleonins. In their inexorable rise from

North East I in 1987-88 to sixth place in the Courage Clubs Championship second division, the team from south Yorkshire has narrowed the gap from 67 places to 13 on Harlequins. Cup defeats by Wilmslow, in 1971, and at Orrell, in 1973 and 1986, have taught the London club respect when it comes to comparatively unknown Northern opponents.

Harlequins circumvented the han on their cameras last week by getting pictures of Rotherham's defeat against Wakefield from Yorkshire Television. Not that they give much clue to a narrow, sloping pitch, on which several reputations have come unstuck. Harleouins, twice cup winners, include eight internationals and a crowd of 4,000 will be shoehorned into the

N Back

Jason Leonard's elbow operation means that Will Carling assumes the Harlequins captaincy. His opposite number, John Dudley, is a club bouncer. Will is a cult hero nationally and John is a cult hero in Rotherham," Ged Glynn, the Rotherham chief coach, said of the No 8, part of a mobile back row alongside Craig West and



land schools and colts internationals in a young side.

Dean Lax's 70 per cent lace kicking success rate for Rotherham suffers only slightly by comparison with Thierry Lacroix. "It's harder for Thierry to miss, I know, but Dean, like the rest of the side, has a great opportunity to show just how far this club has come," Glynn said.

Parting Saracens and Wasps in the all-London the tomorrow is difficult, but Sky Sports viewers will get the referee's perspective straight from the whistle of Chris

Officials at televised matches have been wired up to assist commentators, mainly with explanation about penalties. Referees' comments, including words with errant players, can now be broadcast for the first time in the northern hemisphere; the experiment was successful last year in the Super 12 series and the move has the blessing of the Rugby Football Union.

Saracens remain unbeaten at Enfield. There is no pre-

Hill, England's new open-side flanker, whose partnership in the back row with Francois Pienaar continues to blossom Wasps are without Andy Reed, who is resting an in-jured knee. Richard Kinsey replaces the Scotland lock and Aaron James must fill the gap at centre left by Valaiga Tuigamala, now back in rugby league at Wigan.

In three more derbies, home advantage is likely to be the key as Bristol journey to Gloucester, Coventry Northampton and Sale to Orrell. The second division is guaranteed two quarter-linalists by the meetings of Wakefield and Moseley and London Scottish and Newcastle, who will take no chances with a hamstring injury to Tim Stimpson, the England full back, before the game against

Scotland next Saturday.

Martin Baylield, the former
England and British Isles second-row forward, makes his first appearance for Northampton in ten months after recovering from a chronic

RUGBY LEAGUE: AMATEURS CONVINCED THEY CAN CAUSE CUP UPSETS

Professionals in for rude awakening

By Christopher Irvine

FOR first and second division clubs emerging from winter hibernation, the third round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup this weekend could be a rude awakening. Their amateur opponents are match-fit

and are arguably better prepared. The professional sides' previous core-petitive matches were last August, around the time that the amateurs were starting their season. The move to summer and the fact that the Challenge Cup is now effectively a pre-season competition, appears to have increased the possibility of

West Hull became the first amateurside to reach the last to last year, when they eliminated two professional oppo-nents, Prescut and York, before they eventually succumbed to Wakefield Trinity. They were hoping for a repeat of their emloits last night at Dewsbury. For clubs who have found an inactive

winter tough going, gate revenue, courte-sy of automatic home draws for 19 first and second division sides, will be welcome. Huli Kingston Rovers and Keighley Cougars are now both being run by administrators. Bramley, who have just come out of administration after moving in with Leeds at Headingley, are at Swinton in the only all-professional tie.

Thano Heath, the Lancashire Cup holders, could trouble Workington Town. who were relegated from the Stones Super League last season. The St Helensbased side last year knocked out Chorley. now known as Lancashire Lynx, who play Hull Dockers in their first match at Preston today. Woolston, the leading amateur club for three seasons, stand one

of the best chances of progressing, at Hunslet.

Widnes have given John Devereux permission to play for Sale rugby union dub in their Pilkington Cup match today at Orrell, rather than in their tie against Clayton 24 hours later, but insist he will be recalled for their Challenge Cup fourth round match on February 8 or 9.

Doug Laughton, the Widnes manage said: "We have a good relationship with Sale and appreciate it is a big game for them, but we will definitely have John back for the next round if we win

CA Rugby Football League tribunal yesterday ordered Oldham Bears to pay £28,000 to Workington for Vince Fawcett, a centre, who arrived this week at Boundary Park, the club's new home,

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RACING: ONE MAN CAN DOMINATE AT CHELTENHAM AS RICHARDS LINES UP BIG-RACE TREBLE

Greystoke chasers to collect rich pickings

GORDON Richards can complete a remarkable big-race treble this afternoon and in the process offer himself hope of ending a personal Cheltenham Festival hoodoo.

One Man and Addington Boy will be out to further their Gold Cup claims at Cheltenham, while General Command seeks to confirm his status as a progressive handicapper in the day's most valuable chase at Doncaster and all three Greystoke runners are likely to start favour-

Despite being one of the leading jumping trainers, Richards has enjoyed only three winners at the Chelten-

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: LEAR JET (1.35 Cheltenham) Next best: Star Rage (4.30 Cheltenham)

ham Festival - the last victory coming ten years ago. He would love dearly to put the record straight.

One Man, beaten upwards of 30 lengths on the three previous occasions he has run at Cheltenham, should be able to put the past behind him as he faces just three rivals in the Pillar Property Investments Chase (3.20). "If he cannot do his job tomorrow, you would have to be disappointed. If he doesn't win, I would have to put it down to Cheltenham. Let's hope he answers the questions. He's been working since the weather broke and I had him ready to run more than a week ago," Richards

While One Man will not be a betting proposition, it is hard to make out a case for his rivals, especially as the two liyear-olds. Barton Bank and

1.00 Daraydan

1.35 Shooting Light

2.10 Addington Boy

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

CHELTENHAM

THUNDERER

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

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0-00 cm 11) (12 miners)

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431211 MAY DANCE 2 (D.F.G.S) (Wester 66 Racing) P Hobbs 6-11-3 (76s)
13-2213 BLOWN 25 (16) 15 Monry LA Rain 5-12-13
13-233 SAMANDS 5 (9) (Maryan Derhaters M Charges 5-10-13
13-233 SAMANDS 5 (9) (Maryan Derhaters M Derhate 15-0418
13-231 DITTER'S GALE 45 (F.G.S) I Permy 10 Mark 15-0411
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1996 MEETING ABANDONED - FROST

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The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 1.00 HAY DANCE.

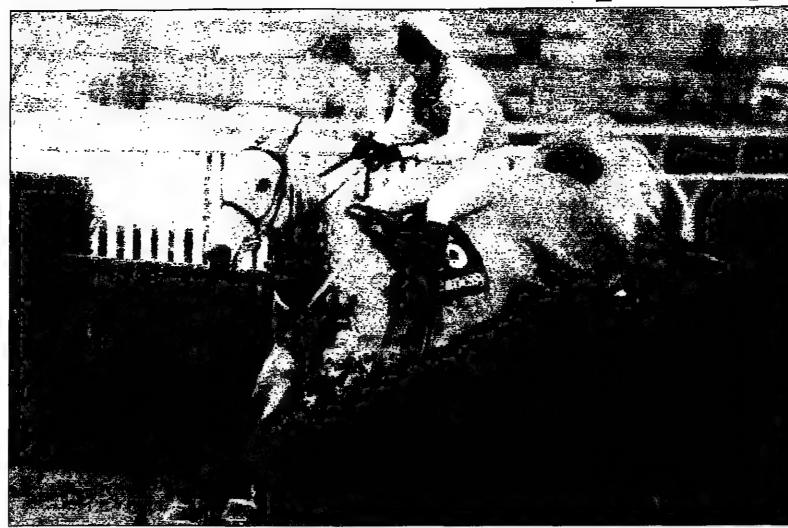
245 Pridwell

4.30 Star Rage

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

P Hide 67
C Maude 92
N Willemson 48
J Ryan 97
J Osborne 57
O Pears 92
R Derveroody 92
J F Tribry 88

3.55 Imperial Vintage



One Man has a fine chance of gaining his first Cheltenham success today in the Pillar Property Investments Chase. Photograph: David Giles

(4.30) at Cheltenham.

Celestial Choir, another

dual-purpose horse, looks to

have been let in on a very

favourable mark for her

Yorkshire Gale, hail from yards not in the best of form. Martomick has not won a race

since April 1994. Although Addington Boy faces a tougher task in the Ladbroke Trophy Handicap (2.10), the Tripleprint Gold Cup winner still looks ahead of the handicapper. The nineyear-old previously lost out to Challenger Du Luc in the Murphy's Gold Cup over course and distance, having slipped on the home turn. With ground conditions and a 3lb pull in the weights in his favour, he should gain revenge today and advertise his Festival claims.

Richards is particularly fond of General Command, undefeated in three starts this term, and he looks capable of giving weight away to his rivals in the Pertemps Great Yorkshire Chase (3.00) at Doncaster. Golden Spinner rates the main danger.

Away from the gaze of the television cameras, there are several tempting betting prop-

2.10 LADBROKE TROPHY CHASE

7/11P-81 DURUM FLYER BD (CD.E.S) (J. Sammer) T Foretor 11-12-0...
U111-31 ADDRIGTON BDY 42 (CD.F.S.S) (Sett Freek) & Richards 9-1
3123-1F CHALLENGER DU LUIS 65 (R.CD.F.S.S) (D. Johnson) M Pros
F024-3F BARBUMY STAR 35 (CD.F.S.S.) (L. Zorophell) J Göret 12-1
1114-73 Nall OF TULLON 49 (B.F.B.S) (Laby Heins) D Nicholson 6-1
1124-72 SQ UNIVERSAL 7 (D.F.G.S) (Livestal Lip) C Brooks 6-16-0
4/P1484 - NASHTO 282 (CD.F.S.S) (Totals M Handerson 10-10-0
1116-11 EASSY LONGER 56 (F.B.S) (6 Orchard) 5 Nationals 9-10-0

(Handicap: £16,938; 2m 5f) (8 runners)

ositions. Star Rage, who did handicap debut over hurdles this column a big favour in the in the Bessacarr Handicap Hurdie (1.20) at Doncaster. County Hurdle last year, is at his best in a strongly-run race on a track with a stiff finish. Considered a Champion Hurdle possibility last term, she Jimmy Harris's tough dualwon easily at Ayr before finishing an excellent third to purpose campaigner, who ran creditably on the Lingfield all-Mysilv at Haydock and a reproduction of that effort everything in his favour in the would be more than good DJ Equine Handicap Hurdle

enough to win today.

Bob Jones paid 9,000 guin-eas for the former Paul Coletrained Lear Jet last September and from the moment the colt jumped a hurdle

PUT CETTS ON the master man transport from 3 years on a super control state to the foreign course head to 8-united iterations closes at Leufous Care, good to family. LIMELY RIGIGAT toset at Leufous Care, good in family. LIMELY RIGIGATY toset effort hand Misser Dates 181 in 10-united novice classe at Humiliopous Care 41 110/40, good). PLESTY LIEU-TENANT heat Scottists Bassle 171 in 10-number novice classe at Warwick (2m, good) penulifornia.

(£5,589: 2m 1f) (15 runners)

T Forths
K Bailey
G Sharwood
C Mann
D Michelson
J Gifford
G Rectiants
N Twiston-Da

4.30 DJ EQUINE HANDICAP HURDLE

3.55 60 YEARS OF TIMEFORM HOVICES HANDICAP CHASE

SETTING: 8-4 Imparial Viriage, 5-2 Poter's Bay, 7-2 Lively Wright, 0-2 Flight Listhmant, 6-1 The Millio Christia. 12-1 After The Fox, 20-1 offices

FORM FOCUS

BETTING: 5-1 Cococies, 6-1 Kelestrol, Star Rage. 7-1 Mari Equal, 6-1 Intercapic, 8-1 Bellini, 10-1 Tibeta Addry Street, 12-1 other.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

21.7 21.1 20.0 19.0 17.5 17.4 15.6 14.8

21-1113 POTTERTS BAY 30 (C.B.F.F.0) (size J Pullar) D Micholson 6-11-10.
111F11 IMPERIAL VMTAGE 9 (CD.F.6) (D Willards) Mics V Willards 7-11-10.
121F12 LIVELY TWOCHT 37 (B.F.G. (A Weller) J Diffurd 6-11-0 Comp 6-11-0 Comp

Long bundloup: After The Fex 9-10, Cresting Prospect 8-10, La Magaine 8-0.

at home, he knew it was

money well spent. "He's a brilliant jumper," the Newmarket trainer said yesterday. On his debut at Ascot, Lear Jet jumped superbly and he looks a value proposition in the Finesse Four-Year-Old Hurdle at Cheltenham (1.35) where Shooting Light is likely to be favourite. Jones sent out Le Teteu to beat Hurricane Lamp at Doncaster yesterday and that victory has provided added encouragement for this

Santa Concerto for virtuoso performance

1.00: Ali's Alibi, runner-up to the useful Island Chief and Stormy Coral on his last two starts, is weighted to win but is rather one-paced and looks worth opposing at skinny odds. Solba won here twice last term but appears to have lost his confidence. Fiveleigh Builds almost cer-tainly needed his first run for two months at Ludlow nine days ago when carrying top weight, and he can enhance a good strike rate off a 2lb lower mark.

1.30: King Pin arguably needs to improve to oblige, but after winning at Catterick last time Peter Beaumont said: "He is potentially one of the best horses we have had and the main target is the EBF final at Chehenham." Beaumont's horses are in cracking form and today's longer trip and more galloping track should suit. Shanavogh beat Paper-ising at Haydock but the versatile Lance Armstrong looks a bigger danger.

2.00: Lord Of The West has the best chasing form but his jumping is far from fluent. Crown Equerry makes a quick reappearance after winning well at Carlisle on Monday, but all eyes will be on Santa Concerto. A winner of four of his seven starts, Lenny Lungo's highly rated runner could be even better over fences, and he can make a successful chasing debut as long as he is straight enough after an 11-

> CHELTENHAM CHANNEL 4

2.10: see left.

2.45: Pridwell is not genuine but saves his best for this track and, if he reproduces, he form which saw him finish third in last year's Champion Hurdle, he will go close. With Muse likely to set a good pace, Castle Sweep's suspect jumping will be put under strain.

Large Action has done nothing wrong this term and can enhance his Champion Hurdle credentials.

not get away with the jumping mistakes he made at Ludlow nine days ago when winning for the eighth time this season. Hight Lieuten-ant is not sure to stay, while the two form choices, Lively Knight and Potters Bay, come from yards not in top form: The Mine Captain. lightly raced over fences, is a tentative choice.

TODAY'S RACES

ON TELEVISION DONCASTER

CHANNEL 4

2.25: Ionio would probably have beaten Sea Victor here last time but for a sloppy jump at the last. The form of that fast-run race has worked out particularly well, with the winner obliging at Kempton last Saturday and fourth-placed Endowment also scoring subsequently. Having finished fifth in the 1994 St Leger, today's extra half-mile should suit Ionio. Mighty Moss has done little wrong and was not helped by a slowly run race last time when just beaten at Uttoxeter. Inn At The Top, a course and distance winner,

and Hoh Warrior also merit

3.00: see left.

3.35: Several are in with a chance here, including Native Mission who made a promising reappearance at absence and is well treated on his best form. Time Won't Wait, a course and distance winner, would have gone close to winning on his seasonal debut at Haydock last week but for a last fence blunder and he should reverse form with Political Tower.

However, Lord Dorcet, winner of novice chases at Ascot and Sandown last season, is open to further improvement and ran well enough under a big weight at Kelso eight days ago after a six-week break. Previously he had been pitched in against Sound Man and Viking Flagship. This oppo-sition should be more to his liking: _ _ _ _ ...

ses pi

4.10: The form of Society Magic's second to Disallowed looks nothing special. with the winner and third having been well beaten since. The consistent Jackson 3.55: Imperial Vintage will - Park has the best form and should be spot on after a good third behind Rossel at Kelso recently. However, Royal Action was a fair performer on the Flat and ran well behind yesterday's Doncaster winner, Le Teteu. at Fakenham on his hur-dling debut. This track should be more suitable.

RICHARD EVANS

MONDAY: Southwell (AM, first raise 1,45).
Pumpton (2,00), Ayr (1,40).
TUESDAY: Lingifield: Park. (AM, 1,30),
Musselburgh (1,15), Warwick (1,10).
Musselburgh (1,15), Warwick (1,10).
Leicener (1,40), Window (1,30).
THURSDAY: Lingifield Park (AM, 1,50),
Sedgefield (1,40), Toucester (1,30), Follostone (1,45).
FREDAY: Southwell (AM, 1,50), Cetterfox (1,40), Lingifield Park (1,30), Teurifion (1,45).
SATURDAY: Lingifield Park (AM, 1,30),
Chepatow (BBC, 1,15), Sandown Park (CA, 12,46), Stration (1,05), Wetherby (1,10).

Flat manifings in boot



DONCASTER

SETTING: 7-4 Choosing Light, 3-1 Los Jet 9-2 Rosserry Avenue 7-1 Roote Lord 6-1 Ketoin 16-1 others

491-47 Co FOR MILE (1997) TO TURNING STATE OF THE STATE O

12.45 Cariboo Gold 2.25 lonio 3.00 Golden Spinner 1.20 CELESTIAL CHOIR (nap) 3.35 Callisoe Bay 4.10 Jackson Park

12.45 GREAT YORKSHIRE MEETING NOVICES CHASE

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES)

1.35 FINESSE FOUR YEARS OLD HURDLE

Grade II: 4-Y-O 58 785 2m 11) (9 runners)

(£4,029 2m 3i 110yd) (5 runners) 01123 CARROD COLD 35 (BLF.C.S.) (Mr. 3 Netton) F Salmy 6-11-4
6-5P430 CURRAGE PETER 7 (3 Stockman Mar 9 Reported 19-13-4
01 DOMARIE DE PROM 42 (6) (1 Taylor, Mar 1 Taylor, 6-13-4
22-50F-P JUST SUPPOSEN 91 (F) (5 multiple) (6) (1 Reported) 6-11-4
0 F WOODSRIDGE 774 (5cm), Protein F Marchy 6-11-4

BETRITIG: 4-7 Serion Chir. 5 : Jen Superior 6-1 Consume the Aron. 12-1 Woodburdge: 26-1 Cursign Palet 1996; WEETING ABANDONED — FROST 1.20 BESSACARR HANDICAP HURDLE (£3 678 2m 110yd) (13 runners)

BESSACARR HANDICAP HURDLE (23 678 2m 110yd) (13 6500) ### SILBEGER 13F 13 9 10 6 11 0 Cost 10 3cm not 6 11-12 3 23*-521 ALBERIOR 30 (COF G) 45*-1 Cost 10 3cm not 6 11-13 529*-41 ### FLAND GOLD 36 (0 6.5) 4* 9 action 9 8cd 9 7-11-2 42-4343 ### MATAK 14 (0 6) 16 3cm not 7 5 9action 9 8cd 9 7-11-2 42-4343 ### NOT 11 (COF) 4 20*-an S Gamps 5-11-2 1000-1 LE ANDIAN 9 (D.F.G) 10 20*-an S Gamps 5-11-2 1000-1 LE ANDIAN 9 (D.F.G) 10 20*-an S Gamps 5-11-2 1000-1 LE ANDIAN 9 (D.F.G) 10 20*-an S Gamps 5-11-2 149-454 48 ### REPREZIONAT 36 (D.F.G) 5 Carrier S Brookhar 8-16-13 643114 SHOWN 500E 11 (D.R.F.G.S) (3 Gatarn 1 Except 5-10-12 13 CELESTAL CHORN 16 (D.F.G) (3 Frame) May M Revely 6-10-10 055-218 SANT GEL 36 (D.R.G.S) (4 Frame) May M Revely 6-10-10 055-218 BETTING 7-2 La Macmit E 1 Algemine, Tejano Gold. 1-1 Celescul Choir 8-1 Kartak, Severn Gale, 10-1 others

1.50 DONCASTER SPONSORSHIP CLUB HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,834; 2m 4l) (8 runners)

221109 (A.G.) PREDE SOU (C.G.) (Prener Heal-Treatment) N Henderson 8-11-10 M.A. Rizoparald — 20-P466 (OUR ICRS 77 (G) Mr. 5 Selbra 71 Coverty 5-11-4 ... I R Novembry 92 545000 ALLTIME (DANCER 7 (BL.C.S) III Heymond C Stremon 5-11-1 ... I A Noticerty 93 106-153 (DANAPPE, 40 (Br.G. 8) Amor, 187 15-09 ... Tent 93 51231-3 (PREVALUE 40 ID.85.6.S) A Service, 18 25 62505 (B-10-9) ... R Borns (7) 95 207-422 (RALISA 82 (G) Newtrey Recing December 25 M Hammand 5-10-3 ... R Borns (7) 95 363306 (BJ.M. ANGE 40 (F.G.S) (Cours Building Supplies 11c.) 1-Forgrati 10-19-2 P Carbony 90 5446 ALBERTITO 35 (G.S) (Lick 2 Coracy: R Hotherbead 10-10-0 ... S Viyene —

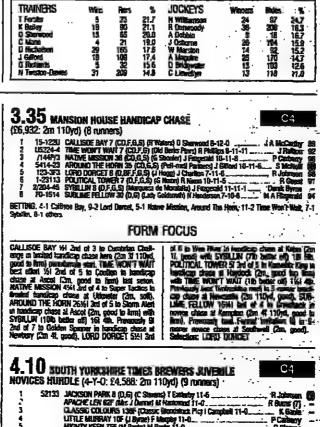
BETTENG: 3-1 Proposition 7-2 Blast Frence, 9-2 Correspond 11-2 Ratios 13-2 Car Kns. 7-1 Albitra Cancer, 12-1

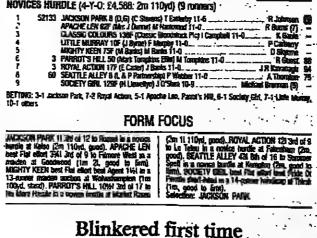
BETTING: 6-4 Addington Boy, 9-4 Challeager Da Lea. 7-2 Dabbin Flyw, 10-1 Beachury Star. Be Universial, 14-1 Hill Of Tallow 33-1 Phores FORM FOCUS DUBLIM FLYPH List Calca Couplin 181 in 8-mmer grade if Peterborough Crease at Humbregton (2m 41 1104), good in 1104d good in 2m 14m start lest season best CHALLENGER DU LUC (5th better off) 91 in good in 12m best less than 12m Feitine Champon Novice Chaca at Ayr (2m 4, 2mt) ADDREGTOR BUTY best SD UNIVERSAL 6 in the 10-super grade 91 for playing the start of the 10m start of the 2.45 CLEEVE HURDLE (Grade I. £25,240, 2m 5f 110yd) (5 numers) C4 BETTING: 4-7 Large Apien, 3-2 Casile Sinsep 6-1 Photoell, 8-1 Misse, 14-1 Right Win FORM FOCUS 3.20 PILLAR PROPERTY INVESTMENTS CHASE (£16.775, 3m 11 11G/c) (4 noners) 420-253 SERTICH BREAK SO OF F.G.S) (Min J Moving D Nemiclen 11-11-12 ... 1116-11 Cug Mars 30 (0.F.G.S) (7 Helen) 5 Pictoric 9-11-12 ... 401-131 (GRESSFOR GAE 43 (20.F.G.S) (8 Minton) 1 Grigot 11-11-6 -572-52 (MARTOSECA TO (0.F.G.S) 15 School 8 Sadey 10-11-5 ... BETTING: 2-7 Cop May 4-7 Barton Serv, 16-1 Harborida Gala, 25-1 Marborida FORM FOCUS ONE MAN best Floor title in wing George if Glemol 10H in match over course and distance at variation (am. groot to firm). Pronoctivi figood) MARTOMICK 23 and of 4 to Engaging best BARTOMICK 23 and of 4 to Engaging the BARTOMICK 23 and of 4 to Engaging the BARTOMICK 23 and of 4 to Engage the BARTOMICK 23 and of 4 to E

2.25 NAPOLEONS RACING RIVER DON NOVICES HURDLE
1 P-101 HDH WARROR 11 (6.5) (2 Major) (2 Brades 6-11-10
BETTING EARlight, March Sall over All Hot Macros has At The Top 6-1 Solen's Occasion
FORM FOCUS
HOH WARRIOR best Alexis Excress 9 in a 20- native names furthe at its reciter (2m) good to soft) 10800 head 2nd of 20 to 58 a learn in a nonce backle here (2m) 109d, good to fam) MIGHTY MOSS 14 and of 15 to Apparend in a nonce backle at Universe (2m 2 109d soft), IRBI Selection 10800
3.00 PERTEMPS GREAT YORKSHIRE CHASE (Handicap chase, £23,315 Sm) (12 numers)
1 122-111 GERGRAL COMMAND 35 (C.D.F.G.S) (R Digiton) G Richards 9-11-10 . P Carbony 95 2 1737-33 (RSG LLDCFER 49 (D.G.S) (A Digiton) D Nachdoor 8-11-10 . Mr R Thombon (6) 97 3 1922-27 GOLDEN PROCESS 75 (G.S.) (Act House) M Headerson 10-11-10 . Mr A Registed 90 4 1016-11 SUSSY LONG 75 (S.S.) (A Lowes) D Nachdoor 10-11-10 . Mr A Registed 91 1272-14 (DROCK 75 (K.S.) (A Lowes) D Nachdoor 10-11-17 . J. R Kanganghi 95 1272-14 (DROCK 75 (K.S.) (A Lowes) D Nachdoor 10-11-17 . A Thombon 90 7 217-171 SUBJECT 507 GF GG.) (F. Bedrick W Brown) K Balley 8-11-7 . A Registed 91 13334-4 TUTO 71 FG PLACT 70 (D.F.G.S.) (PB-most Proce) Lidered 10-11-2 . Mr C Borner (D. 9) 1324-24 TUTO 71 FG PLACT 70 (D.F.G.S.) (PB-most Proce) Lidered 10-11-2 . Mr C Borner (D. 9) 1324-24 TUTO 71 GERK 44 (D.F.G.S.) (A Technology J Peans 8-10-13 . Mr Mann 99 19 GERPPA MERRY MESTER 95 (B.D.F.G.S.) (A Technology L Moore 15-10-13 . S Nachdo 95 11-11 . S N
Long handrags, Pinn, Gunner 9-13 BETTERG, 3-1 General Comment 9-1 Genten Springer Sounds Strong, 6-1 Easily John 8-1 Turning Tree, 12-1 Run Up The Ping, 1-4 1 Sect, 1-3cy, Ping Loufer Romany Creek, 25-1 gallers
FORM FOCUS

197-942 ROSARIY GEEK 44 (D.F.G.S.1-4 Romesson J Pearce 8-10-13 SPEPPF MERSTER 55 (B.D.F.C.S.1-6 Lonzing) G Horen 13-10-13 SMERIES 37-FSTP (D.H.S.1.) (D.S.1.) (D.S.1.						
te Plag. 14.1 Bech (13c) Plany Lucifer Romany Creek, 25-1 others						
FORM FOCUS						
LOUMMAND best Values Women 16 in handcap chase at MacActo (2m 4) good (2m 4) good (3m 4) g						
COURSE SPECIALISTS						
VERS Wint Rus % JOCKEYS Wonges Bades % derson 3 10 300 P Carbony 4 11 34.4 as 4 15 267 J R Kanangsh 5 15 dkts. 4 15 27 J R Kanangsh 5 15 dkts. 4 15 27 J R Kanangsh 5 10 00.0						

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TENNIS: WORLD No 1 SHOUTS THE ODDS AFTER CONFIDENTLY DISPOSING OF MUSTER IN SEMI-FINALS

Sampras makes a racket about his title prospects

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN MELBOURNE

IMPERIOUS in style, every bit as much as the score of 6-1. 7-6, 6-3 suggests, Pete Sampras wore a crown on centre court here yesterday as he reached the final of the Australian Open. "I'm the king of the castle," he seemed to tell Thomas Muster, "and you'll need more than a rusty old musket to unseat me on this patch."

Sampras, the world No I, will meet Carlos Moya, the 20-year-old rookie, romorrow, and he is the strong and obvious favourite to win his second Australian Open title. If he shows the dominance against the Spaniard that he did yesterday, it could be a one-sided contest, for all Moya's brave words.

"I feel I have one more match in me," Sampras said afterwards, like a man who can sense his ninth grand-slam title over the next hill. At the end of a hard week, when he was taken to five sets in extreme heat by Dominik Hrbaty and Alberto Costa, he has played like a great champion. But first there is a gifted youngster to beat.

In victory he was as expansive as a sportsman is ever likely to be, without straying into boastfulness. "I had great rhythm, got an early break after an extraordinary rally in

SEMI-FINALS: T Woodbridge (Aus) and Mi Woodborde (Aus) M R Lesch (US) and J Start, US) 6-3, 7-5, 5-7-6; S Leneu (Can) and A O'Brien (US)-bt.J Etingb (Holl) and P Haartule (Holl) 4-5, 6-2, 6-4, 5-7, 6-2.

Mon's doubles

Mixed doubles

Women's doubles

and it went from there. It was hard to maintain but I managed to set the time of the match in that opening set, even though Thomas should have won the second."

Sampras was formidable in that first set. Muster was sent running that way and this, winning only eight points when Sampras served and surrendering two of his own service games to go 5-0 down. Not even his noisy Austrian fan club could assist him.

Having concluded the first set with his south ace, Sampras found Muster more resolute in the second. "Break him!" a German voice implored from the bleachers, and their man duly obliged in the sixth game.

At 5-2 up and again at 5-4, when he was within a point of taking the set on his own service, Muster was almost level. It was then that Sampras revealed his true quality as he took four successive games to carry a stronger rhythm into the tie-break. Muster netted when Sampras returned a smash and that set was his, too. The Austrian cheerleaders were shocked into silence.

Sampras was really singing now, breaking Muster in the second game of the third set

6-2. 6-0.

GRIBE DOUBLES: Sami-linels: Will.co.

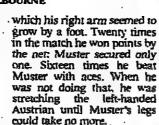
GRO and J Worlt (Seri bit & Rosenfeld

June) and K Stracty (Pol) 6-2. 6-2. Cho

Your-leaning (S Kor) and S Hearmains

(Japan) bit K Devales (R) and C Popessu

(Gar) 6-4. 6-7. 6-4.



"I went toe-to-toe with him from the baseline," Sampras said, "I tried to use the whole court, to make him work, make him run. I didn't want to let him settle into the way he likes to play."

As for Moya, he can expect no mercy. Sampras noted that he best Michael Chang in straight sets and gave him his due for achieving such a notable victory, but he has not come this far to lose. "Moya has won his matches convincingly and is confident, but my form is getting better and better," Sampras said.

Muster looked like a man who had been run into the ground, as he had. "I had an excellent chance to take that second set off him and failed," he said. "Once he gets ahead, he is very tough to beat.

"I tried to open up the court but you have to risk a lot to do that and he covers it so well. Moya has a good chance, though. He is playing well and, if he can take it to five sets, I don't know how Pete cope with another match like that."

☐ David Sherwood and James Trotman, the British pair, reached the final of the boys' doubles by beating Nich-olas McDonald and Kyle Rudman, of South Africa, 7-5, 7-5. Martina Hingis collected her first winner's trophy at the tournament, partnering Natasha Zvereva, of Belarus. to a 6-2, 6-2 victory against Lindsay Davenport and Lisa

Graf sentenced, page 17

2.00 SCOTTISH SUN MADE IN SCOTLAND FOR

SCOTLAND NOVICES CHASE (£7,064: 3m 11) (7 runners)



SPORT IN BRIEF

Welsh hopes given boost by Gough

THE prospect of a first Welsh win in the British national squash championships edged closer at the Northern Club in Manchester yesterday when Alex Gough, of Newport, beat John Russell, the youngest player in the second round at 17. 91. 10-9, 9-7 to reach a quarter-final today against Julian Wellings (Colin McQuillan writes). If he can beat Wellings, Gough, 26, ranked No 25 in the world and the No 3 seed, will fancy his chances in the semi-finals tomorrow, when he will probably meet Stephen Meades, the No 2 seed.

In the top half of the women's championship, experience established itself far more firmly yesterday with Cassandra Jackman, the No I seed, beating Claire Fleetwood 9-0, 9-1, 9-2 in just 16 minutes to earn a meeting with Fiona Geaves, the

Loughtonians' lament

HOCKEY: Injuries will deprive Old Loughtonians, second behind Cannock in the premier division of the National League, of two key players - Julian Halls and Nick Thompson - for their home match against Canterbury omorrow. Halls has a damaged hand and Thumpson a knet injury. Cannock, at full strength, entertain Southgate. for whom Shaw and Duthie are doubtful starters.

Clubs sue for peace

RUGBY UNION: England's top clubs believe they are close to resolving long-running differences with the Rugby Football Union over direction of the game in the professional era. After meeting in Northampton yesterday. Epruc, the body representing the leading clubs, said its members were committed to England's success in the five nations' championship and would release players for games.

Lyle struggles

GOLF: Sandy Lyle faces the possibility of missing the cut in the Phoenix Open at Scottsdale, Arizona, after an opening round of 75. Lyle is 13 shots behind the leader, the US Open champion, Steve Jones, who barely made it to the tee on time before completing a nine-under-par 62 to take a two-stroke lead over Nick Price. Jones had miscalculated the time it would take to walk from the driving range to the 1st tee.

Downhill equality

SKIING: Isolde Kosmer, of Italy, and Heidi Zurbriggen, of Switzerland, shared first place in the World Cup downhill event in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, yesterday, both women clocking Imin 30.81sec. Luc Alphand, of France, won the men's downhill at Kitzbühel, Austria, with 2min 12.55sec over two legs to push Werner Franz of Austria, into second place. William Bessem, of Switzerland, was third.

Rochester plays host

CYCLING: Rochester, in Kent, will host the British round of the World Cup competition, the seventh of the ten races. The 148-mile event on August 17 will include some sections of the route when the Tour de France came to Britain in 1994. Britain first staged a round of the World Cup in Newcastle upon Tyne, in 1989, before the race moved to Brighton (1990 and 1991), followed by a five-year run in Leeds.

Jones plots Aintree course for Le Teteu

BOB JONES, the Newmarket trainer, has Aintree in mind for Le Teteu after his authoritative success in the £15,000added Rossington Main Novices' Hurdle at Doncaster yesterday. He is hoping the colt can make amends for the narrow defeat of his stablemate, Jack Button, at the 1995 Grand National meeting.

'Aintree owes us one." Jones said. Le Tereu's task yesterday was made easier by the withdrawal, because of a bruised foot, of the likely favourite, Alzulu. In Alzulu's absence, his main rival became the 11-8 favourite. Hurricane Lamp, who held a slight advantage

coming into the straight. However, the race was as good as over once Russ Garritty sent Le Teteu to the front before the second last. Maintaining

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES)

12.30 ALBERT BARTLETT & SORS HANDICAP HURDLE

12.30 Triennlum

1.30 King Pin

1.00 Whispering Steel

THUNDERER

#182-50 COAMAIN SOURD 8 (D.S) (Kineston Racing) J. Barclay 6-111-10 B Storey 94
#182-50 COAMAIN SOURD 8 (D.S) (Kineston Racing) J. Barclay 6-111-10 R Gardey 68
#202-21 STASH THE CASH 47 (CD.F.D.S) (G Shido) M Trailer 7-11-3 A S Smith 98
#202-10 FOX SPARROW 415 (D.S) (B Todd) N Trailer 7-11-3 A S Smith 98
#241-21 PODOMANENT 11 (B.D.C.S) (K Valley) with M Revoley 5-11-1 P Rivers 92
#231-221 ADAMAINE 73 (D.F.S) (B Adam) In Alam 6-10-8 J Desiret 93
#251-221 ADAMAINE 73 (D.F.S) (D Pricting) J Privated Johnson 6-10-3 J D Parker 93
#252220 SUPPRIME SOURT 200 N Compiled) A Whitese 7-10-2 STAYON (S) 96
#245411 TREDWINM 15 (D.F.) (M Boyn) P Moderal 8-10-9 G Cashin 98

BETTIME. 9-4 Endownson, 5-7 Stash The Cash, 3-1 Adamatic, 8-1 Fea Spanson, Trendem, 10-1 September Sortel, 14-1 others.

1990: MEETING ABANDONED - SHOW AND FROST

FORM FOCUS

2 00 Santa Concerto

3.40 Magpie Melody

2.35 Memohaak

the sallop. Le Teteu was five lengths clear of Hurricane Lamp at the line.

Le Teteu is almost certain to miss the Cheltenham Festival, where Jones plans to be represented in the Triumph Hurdle by Lear Jet, who runs at Cheltenham this

The Cheltenham Festival is also on the agenda for Jathib after his decisive win in the Balby Novices' Chase. Merrita Jones's gelding, who took his taily to three out of four over fences this season, is pencilled in for the Arkle Challenge

Trophy.

"He needed to win today and now I think he'll run at Cheltenham," said Mrs Jones. "We didn't feel he was quite right when he was beaten there by Celibate. His shins were sore and his back wasn't right, so he could easily improve on that

Bell Staffboy shrugged off a 289-day absence to defeat the favourite, Puritan. by seven lengths in the Doncaster Sponsorship Club Handicap Chase. Bell Staffboy was racing for the first time for trainer John O'Shea, who said: "I expected us not to get beaten today. He was well handicapped on his old form

and he's been showing lots of spark." O'Shea is hoping that Go Ballistic will be good enough to tackle the Gold Cup. "He's going to run in the Agfa Diamond Chase at Sandown next weekend and, if he wins that, he will go for the Gold

BBC1

Cup," he said. "If he gets beaten, he'll go for the Ritz Club Chase followed by the Whitbread."

| D1255 | BALLYINE 7 | 16 | (The 40 Partner/bay) W Kemp 5-11-2 | A 5 Smith | D1255 | BALLYINE 7 | 16 | (The 40 Partner/bay) W Kemp 5-11-3 | B Sizrey | B24-91 | CROWN EDUERRY 5 (F.S.) (R Option) 6 Rechards 7-11-3 | B Sizrey | P0-113 | LORD OF THE WEST 43 (F.S.) (Dave Options 6 Westmarker) J J O keel 8-11-3 | P keel 9 D12365 | SAS (M EARTER 23 (S) (T Research West Stratume 8-11-12 | M Foster | 10344-3 | COOR LAWS 54 (F.S.) (J David J David 16-11-2 | T Read 17-11-3 | T Read 17-11-

BETTINE: 2-1 Santa Concent. 3-2 Crown Equatry, 5-1 Seeking Gold, Lord Of The West, 7-1 Ballyler. 8-1 Coqu. Late. 12-1 Ada Mit Later

FORM FOCUS

BALLYINE bed effort 194 2nd of 7 to Monstrom
in novice localizate classe at Nelso (2m 11, good)
CROWN EQUERRY beat Bold Account 21 in 7uneuer novice classe at Cartisle (2m at 110yd, good)
In Itms.
LORD OF THE WEST beat Prints Woody 3%; in
Fromer handicap classe at Leicester (3m good to
firm) perufforcate start. ASK ME LATER 148 3d of

5R-5611 MENSHAAR 35 (D.C.S) (G Arbur) L Lingo 5-11-18 ...

FSP-113 BELLE ROSE 45 (BF.F.G) (The Belles) G Richards 7-10-9 ...

FSP-036 ADB 11 (S) (N Macon Frame) Ltd G Moore 7-10-9 ...

FSP-036 ADB 11 (S) (N Macon Frame) Ltd G Moore 7-10-9 ...

FSP-036 ADB 11 (S) (N Macon Frame) LD Down 9-10-0 ...

FSP-037 CHARLYC 47 (D Scot) W Commission 7-10-0 ...

Michigan Charly C 45 (W Young) W Young 8-10-0 ...

Michigan MEADOWILECK 45 (W Young) W Young 8-10-0 ...

BETTONS: 11-10 Membran 6-4 Balle Roca, 9-2 Auth, 14-1 Crofton Lake, 33-1 Cliarine. Membraneck

3.10 LAND OF BURNS HANDICAP CHASE (E3,090: 2m 4l) (9 runners)

BETTRIC: 9-4 Mantage, 4-1 Julippal Pelat, 7-2 Jympan Johnny, 6-1 Golden Fiddle Micholas Plant 3-1 Julia 50x, Biby, 12-1 others

BETTME: 11-4 Lord Poulgist, 7-2 Margine Melody, 4-1 Woodsheld Vision, 6-1 Royal Sphice, 8-1 Welt-world, 12-1 Andy Chyde, 14-1 omes

COURSE SPECIALISTS

3.40 AYRSHIRE POST STANDARD NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE

2.35 HIGHLAND MARY NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE

(52,290: 3m 110yd) (6 runners)

Long bandicas: Cardentes 3-7

Long handicap: Groten Lake 9-0. Charter, 6-8, Meadowless 8-5

Barber's hope to relish fast conditions

POINT-TO-POINT BY CARL EVANS

PREDICTING the weather can involve some elaborate methods but for point-to-point trainers it has been alarmingly easy in recent years. Dry weather and firm ground have become the norm; welly boots have given way to deck shoes. and horses which revel in mud have had few outings.

Richard Barber. Britain's most successful point-to-point trainer, has been forced to look specifically for horses which favour arid conditions and he runs one today, Old Mill Stream, in the ladies' open at the Hursley Hamble-

don meeting.
Old Mill Stream will carry Polly Curling but stable companion Fantus, who won the Cheltenham Foxhunters' in 1995, will miss his engagement in the men's open because of the ground, leaving Fosbury to represent the yard. Fantus run next week at Larkhill but only if there is

substantial rain. The fear of breaking horses down is endemic in racing and few know the anguish better than Stewart Pike, who is nursing Proud Sun back to firmess at his Devon home. Proud Sun will be ridden gently this morning as part of his recuperation and his sister, Front Cover, will tackle Old Mill Stream this afternoon. Rilly Goschen partners Pike's mare, Shirley Vickery rides Arctic Chill and Alison Dare is on Down The Mine in an interesting race.

Ben Pollock, despite nursing a broken nose, will ride Holmby Mill, the horse which did the damage while schooling, at tomorrow's Essex Farmers & Union fixture.

Caroline Saunders will also run Sunny Mount and Mr Branigan there and plans to saddle Beau Dandy at today's Cambridgeshire Harriers fixture, which has been rescheduled twice. Racing in the Northern area

begins with the West Percy & Milvain meeting tomorrow when local champion Andrew Parker begins the defence of his title.

TODAY'S MEETINGS; Cambs Harriers of Conenham, Am Harrier of Cambridge (first race 12 00). Hurstey Hambledon et Badbury Renes, Am 1822 of Windome (12,00). TOMORROW: Essax Fermers & Union et Marks Tay. Sm. W. of Colchester (12,00). West Percy & Milleain et Almero. 3m E of Almerok (12,00).

2.20 AWESOME POWER CLAIMING STAKES LINGFIELD PARK

1.10 Imperial Garden. 1.45 Tachycardis. 2.20 Awasome Power. 2.55 Jolly Jackson. 3.30 Time Can Tell. 4.00 Rasayel.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

1.10 CRUSADER CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y-D £2.417: 5f) (6 runners)

1 0-80 BNCHANTICA 14 J Berry 8-10
2 4923 ILEPERRAL GARDEN 2 (O.B. G.) Phesiam 8-9.
3 100- LINNAR MISSE 119 (CD.) M Macar 8-8
4 0-20 COME TOO MAMMAN 3-8 0 (D.B. G.) Burg 6-4
5 0-44-9 MACK MISSE (O.B.) Burger 8-2
6 4-38 ENATERDS PARTISH 10 (V) W G M Turse 7-12
7 J Damm T E Duttan (5) 6 9-4 jungs Mittal: 5-3 mittalis Gelden, 9-3 Whitz 43d, 8-1 Coste Tao Mattista's, 8-1 Estatence Paris., 10-1 Englandica.

1,45 MARGARET JONES BIRTHDAY HANDICAP (£2,765, 6f) (9) : 0-42 THE INSTITUTE BOY 9 (CO.G.S.) Mass J Creek 7-10-0

2 -210 SHARP GIP 9 (B.CD.EFF.G) R Flows 7-9-10 . M Wightin 2 3 DOS - XENOPHON OF CURAXA 57 (B.D.F.S) IA F-Codey 4-9-5

00-0 PANTHER 4 (N.D.F.S.S.) P. Euro. 7-5-9 . Sanders.
350- NVARY'S GRAB HERE 45 (B.C.F) K. hurry 4-8-7 . D. Bages.
005 SUPERLAD 9 (B.F.) Enough 5-7-10 . N. Markey (3) E.
005 TACHYCARDLA 9 (D.F.) F. O'Schram 5-7-10 . N. Markey (3) E.
005 DEFUNT PARAGON 9 (C.D.F.S.S.) K. hurry 3-7-10 . N. Adams. 3-1 The Inputse Boy 7-2 Study Imp 4-1 Tactypards, 5-1 Superiod 8-1 temperod 37 Consus Parimer Bright Paragon, 15-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRANSPRS. Lord Huntingdom: 50 enners from 237 number, 21 1%, 3 Berry 35 from 166, 21 1% it Montague Half, 11 from 55, 20 0%, M Johnston, 49 from 291, 16 9%, M Berr, 16 from 95, 16 8%, J Hult, 20 Loren 101, 15 6. JOCKEYS: J Newest, 84 winners barn 395 rates, 21,3% S. Whitnoom, 32 barn 252, 14,5% A Culture 5 born 32, 13,2%, M. Wigham, 14 born 120, 11,7%, D.R. McCabe, 16 born 155, 11,6%, J. Taje, 12 born 155, 11,4%,

J Heaver I 5 Vinaviorn I A Pernam I A Daly (5: 4 A Culhane I 2 52-8 BAGSHOT 18 (F.5) G L MADON 6-7-1 2 006- MALF AN MICH 3J (B.F) 7 Jones 4-3-7 4 08-0 LITTLE PLEARM 14 1 Jones 4-3-7 5 500- YOUNG FREDERICK 18 F Baing 4-8-7 6 15-2 AWESOME POWER 23 (CD.6) J Hill; 17-8-6 7 13-8 MONESTLY 18 (B.) B Smart 4-5-5 4-05 010 EDDE 14 NV.DDG 18 GROUP 8-8-1 9 00-0 THORNINAMA 7 (B.CD.6) J Bridge 6-7-12 A Clan

3-1 Amesicina Power 4-1 Bagisher Gur Eddae, 9-2 Honesin, 5-1 Code; Li Passage, 10-1 Holf An Inch. 12-1 Liste Prigram 14-1 others

2.55 CHIEFTAIN MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN

1 5-24 HARMONY IN RED 7 (E) C Dayor 9-0 .
2 4 MAT OF VICTORY 17 M 504 9-0 .
3 04-2 JOLLY JACKSON 16 R Awards 3-2
4 Del LEG BEFORM 271 L Monagoe rail 9-0 .
5 POLICYPINE 6 Over 5-9
6 TWENT TRUE IN HAMBUR 61% 8-9 7-4 John Jackson, 5-2 Him Ol Victory, 3-1 Harmony in Red. 6-1 Tenn Time 12-1 Polgarnine, 14-1 Lag Baldium

3.30 CHALLENGER HANDICAP (3-Y-0: £3 290, 1m) (4)

1 54-2 MEAUENLY RESS 21 (C.F.O) J Burge 9-7
2 44-4 TREC GAN TELL 3 (D.B.) C Marray 9-4
6-61 A-6-34 (C.D.G.) U Lebuscon 9-0 (6-6)
4 50-0 MENDOZA 17 D Marray Smith 8-3
J Brannoll (7) 3 Evens Histority Miss, 11-4 Time Con Tell, 3-1 As-Is, 8-1 Mendaza

4.00 CENTURION FILLIES HANDICAP

1 60-3 BLOW FORUM 21 (C.D.F.G.S) L Montague that 6-10-0 1 90-3 SLUW FARUAR 21 (E.D.F.G.S) L MONAPPH PAP 6-16-0
2 01- PERSUASUR 71 (E.B.) LOS Huntangdon 4-5-5 D Hamson 6
3 03-4 DEGREE 21 5 Williams 4-9-3 J Tale 1
4 303- NIDRE THAN YOU KIDW 25 (f) 4 Suite 4-9-4 B Brambal (7) 4
5 1-22 RASAFET 7 (C.D.B.F.G.R F Esset 7-8-17 Anthony Bons (7) 7
7 5-02 HARS EDUM VALK 14 (CD.G.) R D Selvann 6-3-3 S Sanders 5

5-2 Fermissen 7-2 Robaret 9-2 More Than You know 6-1 Glow Figure 7-1 Haelegum Walls, 6-1 Mics Physio, 12-1 Degree

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S FOUR MEETINGS

Doncaster

Going, good, good to him in places.

100 Cm. 1/6yd haffel I., firm A Dreamer & Maggley 8-11, 2 Saly Money (6-1), 3. Rate Condamo (20-1) Dat Prosimo 4-1 fee. 10 ren. Nr., 61 Mes M Rowland Tote 18-70 19-5 Cm. 20-5 Cm. DD F 128-90 Tro. 2189-90 CSF-125-161 Timess (253-41). 135 (2m. 119) of chi 1 Jabbi (Deck Byrre 4-5 tax) 2, Goldon Helb (100 30), 3 Brack Or Buts (16-1), Hend Woven (0-1) tax (17-) ran Na 71 N Henderson Tote (27-70 (2) 40, (2.36), 2-00 (DF (2) 70 Tito (2) 20, (2.56), 2-36

205 (3m 110)rd holer 1, Salmon Breaze (M A Frageald, 7-1), 2 Absolutly Equatorn-(15-11 3 Salcono (16-1) Hand Woven 16-11 to 17 ren Nr. 7. N Henderson Tale 67 70: 12-40, 42-90, 64-90 DF 132-70 Trio (232-10 CSF 186-53) 2.35 (2m 10) date 186.53 2.35 (2m 10) date; 1, Le Tereu (R Cantity 5-2) 2. Hurrsche Lamp (11-8 (av) 3. Green Green Desen (5-1) 5 ran 186. About 51.71 5cb. Jones Tote, \$4.10, 50.30 £1.30 £F 24.10 CSF 26.20

3 10 (2m 31 110yd ch) 1, Bell Staffboy (Michael Brannan 2-1) 2 Puntan (Evens (au) 3 in Truth (8-1) 4 ran, 7(, 28) J O'Shoa Tore 53 50 DF 52 40 CSF 54 32 3.40 (3m ch) 1, God Speed You (4 Magure, 11-8 to) 2, Father Sky (65-40) 3, The Booley House (13-2) 51 an NR Placsy Boy 16, 191 C Monock, Tote 12-40 (21:30, 51:40 DF-11:60 CSF 54 51 4.10 (or 1140 Car 245) 4.10 (or 110yd felt) 1, Mr Lurpak (P Niven, 6.5 tav), 2, Potter Agam (4-1), 3, Tha Show Burn CO 1, 16-rat MR Badger's Lant Es Ga. 4, 91 Mirc M Provedor Tote 22 107 21 30 2160, 27.00 DF 24.50 Tho 258.80 CSF

Plecepor £199 10. Quantool £27 40. Folkestone

Gorng, good to soft (chase course), soft (hundes)

(Bundes) 1 10 (2m) 110yd hdio) 1, Desan Mountain (R Hugher, 3-1), 2 Mei The Chouds (100-30), 3 Anns Saiel (16-1) Mr Was 64 for 12 an 14 15 N Callaghan Toe E4 40 21, 30, E123, C2 40 DF C14 30 Tup E75 30 CSF: 512 43 1.45 (2m ch) 1, Key Player (0 O'Sulman 16-1), 2, thr Bean (16-1), 3 Policemans Prote (12-1) Pear Leven 5-2 (s. 13 not. 11 10' 6 Roser Tote £47.40, £7.90, £7.70, £3.30 DF £161'40 Tro. £29'00 CSF 5230 EF Trickel £2,856.93

2.15 (2m 11 110/chde) 1, Yellow Oragon (R Hughes, 7-1) 2, Chocossis 15s (5-1) 3, Functio (11-10 lav.) 10 ran, 9, 8, 8 Pearce Tole C18-40, C3-40, C1-70, C1-50, DF £18-20, Tho. £9.10, CSF, £39.75 245 (Jim 2) ch) 1, Coun Melody (Mi J Tzzard 8-1, 2, Lete Marting 15-2 (av) 3 Sputtington (13-2) (Dram 1-1 4) Phicholic Tose 214-40 25-50, 51-40, 62-00 OF, 537-90 Tio \$100 10 CSF \$20.04 Treast \$135.67

£135.87

3.20 (2m H 110vd hdle) 1 Added Demension (* Aspun) 11-77 2, Classe Par (10-1) 3 Mazzin (13-2) Zingloa: 2.1 lai 8 ran NR August Taeriin 6 150 P Winsworth Tole £17-97 0: 310 C 180 C 50 DF £54.60 Tro £36.40 C 5F £101.46 Trocat £709.28

3.80 (2m St. ch.) 1 Didned Qual (D. Monz.) 2.50 (2m 5) crt 1, Odord Oud (D Mono, 25-1) 2 Playing Tusant (9-2 to 1-2, Pearls Cheece 13-2) 13 can kill Scotion 18-2 R Cartic Tote 120 90 55-40 11 70, 52-40 DF 114-50 The 124-900 CSF 133-81 Theast 57/4-68

420 (2m 1) 1) (by d lia) 1 Tars Gale (1) Appun, 14-1; 2 Where's Miranda (7-4 lav) 3 Oustandary (9-1) 12 (an 3, 3) 3 Needle (10) 2 (25) 0 (20) 0 (20) 0 (25) 0 (27) 50 The 173 20 CSF 241 40 Placepot £1,207.20. Quadpor £43.00.

Uttoxeter Going: good, good to firm in places

1.15 (3m 2) ch 1 Lord Gyllene (A Donbin, 8-1); 2 Samler (9-2) (Lav); 3. Rectory Garden (11-2) Ballyea Boy 9-2 (Lav) (1) Lan 18; 3 S Brookshaw, Toter C 11 or 52 90, 51 80, 51 90 DF 514 60 Thio 549 90 CSF 537 30 Timest 5175 19 137 30 Incest 11 a 19 1.50 Cm. #110yd hdfe1 f Barton Ward (A Dobbin, 8 1) 2 Spailing Spring (13-2) 3, Supreme Piyor (20-1) Montecot (5-8 au 16 ren 51 251 5 Brookshaw Tote: 19 80 23 30, 62 60 (5-20) DF (29-60) Tha 171.20 CSF 128-63

2.20 (2m 5) ch) 1, Wild West Wind (J F Talsy 5-1); 2, Feel The Power (3-1) 3, Horn Oil Praise (6-5 tan) 6 rom 33-1, 18t Max H Knight Tole \$4.50 \$2.20 \$1.40, DF \$2.50 \$3.50 \$1

2.50 (3m 110yd hole) 1 Halfe Derring (C Mesodo, 5-4 law Richard Evans's nap) 2, Pernovali (5-1) 3 Derring Bodge (8-1) 6 ran 51,241 N Twisch-Device Tote 52.00, 21.40,51.70 DF 63.30 CSF 57.60. 3.25 (2m 5l ch) 1. Mely Moss (J Osboric 4-1), 2. Flaggett Lad (6-1), 3. Rive: Boursy

111-11 States Jam 11-4 fav 8 fan 141 - 41 C Econon Totel 64 20 E1 10 C2 20, 22 bû DIF E31 60 CSF E25 64 Truces: 520 48 3.55 (2m hote) 1 Dennington (J Cobonic 3-1) 2 Wade Road (4-7 Jan) 3 Bonjou 20-11 91an 21 & O'STANDOR TOP \$4.90 21 50 51 40 64 10 DF \$3.10 Top \$12.79 CSF \$4.60 Jackpot not won (pool of £42,951.67 carried forward to Chelienham today) Placepot £101 70 Quadpot £16 50

Southwell

Going: standard 1220 (1m.) 1, Yeoman Ofiver (L. Newton 12-1) 2, Rambo Wellzer (2-5 fav.) 3 Gernano John (20-1) 11 fan fa. 3, B McManon Tote: 624 50: 62 60: 61 fd 64 60 DF 64 20 The 627 10 CSF 617 14 Indest 6128 46 17259 11m 4) 1 Minemartyra Grif für C Borner 50 (15a) 2 Sea God (6.1, 3 Mr Monarty (5.2 (15a) 9 ran Hc, 6) J Petres fore (3.4 of 1.0 f. 19.0 Et 30 DF (11.9) Tho £11.50 CSF £20.72 Tricast £49.22

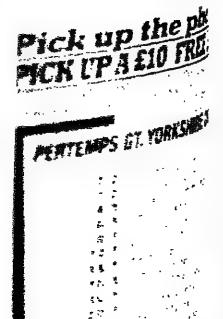
1.20 (£1) 1, Mansab (\$ Drowne 13-8 (av) 2 Hon Malestic (£-1), 3, Laoy Sile (12-1) 16 (an 31.1, 3*4 P Maphy Tota £2.76 £1.60 £1.30, (\$ 80 DF £6.20 Tho £27.50 CSF

E. 42 155 (tm) 1 Roussi st Brambet (11.2) 2, Sea Spouse (8-1) 3, Sandmoor Densin (11-1) Gut Shaaot 7-2 tay 10 ran, 3, 21 0 Nachola Tote 57.00 £1.30, C3-60 £3.70 DF £0.30 Tho £138.60, CSF- £48.07 Tidast £448.72

2.25 (1m) 1, Projectivision (A Chair, 9-2) 2 Stemo Crook (6-4 tav) 3 Love Mo Do (8-4) 8 ron 3'-1, 5-1 W kluir Tote 513 70 53 40 51 10, 51 90 DF 59 30 CSF 511 54 2.55 (7) 1 Globetrotter (J Wicares, 9-4), 2. The Wyandorte Irm (6-1), 3, La Dotte Vita (9-1) Ulira Boy 13-8 tax 8 ran 1-1-2 to Johnson, Toke 12-50 Tot 10, 13-0, 62-40 DF 15-90 CSF £15-84 Turaci CSF 00 3.30 (7) 1. Fast Spin (A Culhane 9-4) 2 Balloborough Boy (11-8 lav) 3. Beluch (11-2) 6 ran tal 61 T Barron Tole 52.90 C1 30 C1 70 DF 52.60 CSF 55.62 4.00 (1)m 4f) 1, Oualitair Pride (Mrs. 1. Pearce, 11-81en) 2, Randeer Guest (5-2) 3, 8/3 (2)m 18 4n Mr. Ratemena. 9, 4/3 Potromiey Tote (2:30, £1 00 £1 70, 24 70 DF (2:36) Trio (2:30.50 CSF £4.57 Tricas) 550 52

Placepot £35 00. Quadoot £55 80

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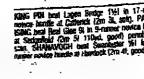
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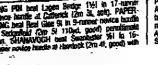
CHESTER

COMPANY WATER

1.00 STAKIS CASINOS HANDICAP CHASE BETTING: 9-4 All's Albu, 4-1 Witespering Steel, 5-1 Aly Dalley, 6-1 Flueleigh Busids, 8-1 Deep Decision, 12-1 Scipe, 14-1 Cediah Boy Long handicap. Deep Decision 9-12.

1.30 CLIENT ENTERTAINMENT SERVICES EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Qualitier, £4,988; 2m 4f) (6 numers) BETTRIES 94 Standards, 5-2 Papersing, 7-2 king Pin. 8-1 Lance Amestrong, 16-1 Audicious Norman, 33-7 Apolio Colosco.







411-431 MMS PRN 37 (9.5) (J Finchtife) P Beaution 5-11-10.

40-2411 PAPERISMS 36 (6.5) (The Locking Militian) 6 Richards 5-11-10.

Sharey 91
40-2411 PAPERISMS 36 (6.5) (The Locking Militian) 6 Richards 5-11-10.

J Callaghan 98
539-121 SHANAVOCH 56 (0.6) (S Existent) 6 Mear 6-11-10.

J Callaghan 98
178-121 LAMIC AMMSTROMS 11 (0.6,5) (6 Poster) C Med cost 7-11-5.

Militian 99
4POLLO COLISSO (J Agan) J Agan 7-11-9.

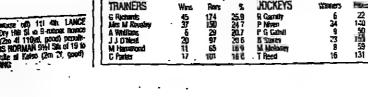
Militian 99
50-105 AUGUSTOLIS NURSHAM 8 (J Adam) J Adam 6-11-0.

T Reed 90

FORM FOCUS



BBC1



FOOTBALL

Six-shooters aim to take game into a new arena

hen tomorrows FA Cup tie against Chel-Bridge is over, the Liverpool first-team squad will fly direct to Amsterdam to begin an odyssey very different from any other English club. While Liverpool are away. Manchester United, and possibly Arsenal, could usurp them at the top of the FA Carling Premiership; but nei-ther will keep such exalted company, or figure in such a setting, as Liverpool.

Steve McManaman, John Barnes and company are to play Ajax, AC Milan, and Rangers in an inaugural European bix's, under the sliding roof of the new £70 million Amsterdam ArenA in a concept devised by Craig Johnston and headed by Johan Cruyff. The teams will play six-a-side football on real grass, and in a format that laces the quick movement and high skills of the indoor game with live appearances from

The venture is coated with commercialism, or at least with speculation, in which Johnston, the former Australia and Liverpool winger, says he has invested £1.2 million. He has sold his other business interests, in sport and television, and even sold his Harley Davidson to finance

the project.
Despite all the showbiz trappings, though, pure football is the aim: McManaman can take on Maldini, and Roberto Baggio and John Barnes can show their touches: Cruyff lends his name and his technical expertise to the venture because he believes that the modern game desperately reskill, as opposed to physical

Though the first European event is held in Cruyff's home city, and though Ajax is about to announce a successor to Louis van Gaal as coach, the assumption that Cruyff will return to his roots is unfounded. Instead, Morten Olsen, the former Denmark international, will join Ajax this summer. Cruyff is happy out of management at the moment, involved to the hilt with 6ix's. and says that, just as he helped

ROB HUGHES



Weekend View

to found the Ajax youth school on the principles of teaching real skills to schoolboys, he believes the small-sided game is "the most effective way to recapture the lost talents of street soccer".

With commercialism mixing with idealism in the ArenA on Monday and Tuesday, as four of the Continent's elite show their paces, the gather-ing of yet more figureheads of the leading clubs points to an acceleration towards the much-vaunted European Super League, Franz Beckenbauer, the president of Bayern Munich, Roberto Benega, the president of Juventus, and their counterparts from Real Madrid and Paris Saint-Germain will all be studying this futuristic tournament.

And where football people. entrepreneurs, industrialists and sponsors come together, you can be sure that the next element towards a breakaway elite will be advanced. There will be six of the Premiership managers, and some of them, perhaps thinking at the outset that Liverpool are taking a short midwinter break, will see the serious and financial

implications behind it. For a start, each of the four clubs involved next week receives £125,000 for bringing its stars; they can win as much again in a tournament that, without jeopardising the players unduly, is intended to have

Curiously, the tournament received most publicity in

Holland because of the kind of legal spat that becomes inevitable where high linance meets sport. Right to the eleventh hour, Philips, the electrical giant based in Eindhoven that has a financial stake in the ArenA, threatened court action against the other

partners in the new stadium. This was because Philips, having earlier rejected an opportunity to sponsor the bix's. bjected to Sony, its Japanese rival, projecting its name through the event. Conse-quently, Philips, by making its objection so public, has helped to sell the first 25,000 tickets towards the promoters' plan for at least 40,000, in the ArenA over the two nights.

in some ways, Johnston's idea reinvents the wheel — it is football as we know it with a new spin. Having been re-sponsible, while a Liverpool player, for Anfield Rap, the restless Johnson travelled the world and wondered why small-sided leagues have not sprouted as an alternative to uneconomic reserve leagues.

e came to two main conclusions — the dif-ferent formats involved in the United States, Germany, Austria, Spain and England gave a fractured appearance to the notion, and the different surfaces, Astrocurf, day or wood, together with perimeter boards, meant a risk of injuries that deterred

Johnston's partners, having to restrain his ebuilience and trying to guide his pioneering but erratic themes, have mainnained the integrity of football. but recognised the attraction of music and technology. Thus, when at 8pm on Tuesday, Liverpool and Ajax

wait in the wings for the first game of the night, the lights will go down, the big screen will replay highlights from 1966 — when Ajax beat Bill Shankly's Liverpool side 5-1 - and the Liverpool anthem, You'll Never Walk Alone, will fill the stadium. When the lights come on, the audience will find Gerry Marsden of Gerry and The Pacemakers playing live for them. Setting the pace, at the

Family man mixing amid the glitterati

EDDIE NEWTON THE FACE OF FOOTBALL

By Russell Kempson

assius bounces playfully on his father's lonce, mischievously tugging at his shirt and punching him, gently yet provocatively, on the chin. Dad cradles him close, barely noticing. Cassius tires after 20 minutes, as four-year-olds do, and wanders off to seek alternative entertainment. Dad glances after him, sneaking a paternal glance, and carries on chatting.

Eddie Newton, the Chelsen midfield player, has faced many more fearsome appo-nents, indulged in much more demanding duels, and come out winning. Hard but fair. When Liverpool play at Stamford Bridge tomorrow, in the fourth round of the FA Cup, he will guard his territory jealously and appear not a patch out of place amid the continental glitterati.

In the company of Cassius, he mellows, indulging his son's whims without a hint of irritation apart from a few quiet, calming words. "I make sure I'm there for him the whole time," Newton said. "He's a bit of a daddy's boy. he tries to copy everything I

do, but he's great.
Twe enjoyed watching him develop, from when he was a baby to now, and I enjoy taking him to school. I remember his first day, he wasn't sure about it and started crying. Now, I take him in and he says: 'Bye bye, dad' — and he's gone."

Newton Jr was named after Cassius Clay, later to become Muhammad Ali, the former world heavyweight boxing champion. "I liked the name, hero," Newton said. "I admired him for many reasons but particularly for the way he stood up for his beliefs. "The United States in the

Newton has flourished at Cheisen under the guidance of first Hoddle and then Gullit first acquaintance. Yet he Sixties was very rackst but he still went to places where

black men would fear to tread. He went to universities in the deep South, where he was surrounded by hundreds of white people, and stood up and said: You are doing wrong. This is not the way God wants us to carry on. You shouldn't judge people by the colour of their skin'.

Even now, even though he's suffering from Parkinhim. He's still out there, still visiting people, still involved with charities. He's one hell of a man.

Newton, 25, is cautious at

warms quickly, talking articulately and knowledge. ably on a variety of subjects. Born in Hammersmith - his mother, Beverley, is Jamaican, his father, Paul, is Nigerian - he attended Cardinal Vaughan School, in Kensington. BMX bike racing, a favoured pastime, was swiftly

replaced.
I had a great childhood and a good education but said. "I'd sometimes play ten games in two weeks and my mum would have to wake up in the middle of the night and : help me. I'd get cramp in my

because I played so often. Cheises were impressed. Yet at 19, he was farmed out to Cardiff City for three months on loan. "I was a bit of a cocky lad," he recalled. "I thought I should have been in the first team." Ian Porterfield, then

calves and in my thighs

the manager, sent him away to learn his trade and he retirned, suitably chastened, to score on his Cheisea debut, as a substitute against-

It was the arrival of Glenn Hoddle at Stamford Bridge, a year later, that initiated Newton's now established anchor role in midfield. "Glenn told me: You're not outstanding at anything but you're very good at everything. You can tackle, you've got skill on the ball, you're good in the air and you read the game well. I've got the perfect position for you the holding slot in front of the back four. I want you to dictate, get the ball, play it, set everything up, keep it all ticking over, but never get in front of the ball. Wherever it is, I want you behind it. Newton obeyed - as Hoddle preached the patient, beauti-

ful game - and flourished. In February last year he broke his right leg in a collision with Kevin Hitchcock, the Chelsea goalkeeper, when playing against West Ham United. He reappeared three months ago, by which time Hoddle had left to coach England, Ruud Gullit was player-manager and the Italians, Vialli and Di Matteo, plus Leboeuf, the Frenchman, had arrived at the Bridge. Zola, a third Italian, soon joined them.

"I've never been worried about competition," Newton said. "I've always been fairly self-confident and believed in myself. Anyway, the camara-derie at the club is brilliant. It doesn't matter whether you're a youngster or a senior. whether you've played in a national team or won this cup or that, everyone mixes

uilit's approach is al-most Hoddlesque, with subtle variaserious at the business end. "When you're training or playing, there's no messing around," Newton said. "You do it properly, you get your work done. Rund told everyone at the start of the season that if they weren't doing it, international or youth team player, they wouldn't play. He's kept to that, everyone knows where they stand."

Newton is doing it, consistently. If not, he can seek satisfaction elsewhere — from the soccer schools he organises, from his love of ragga, soul and swing, from playing with his son. Or from his collection of Muhammud Ali videos.

"If I need a pick-me-up, I watch the tapes," he said. "I never get bored with them, the final day of the 1991-92 they always give me a lift - to go out and get what I want, to go as far as I can, to be the best I can. All inspires me. He always will."

Forest takeover

By Russell Kempson and David Maddock

ATTEMPTS to take over Nottingham Forest, the troubled FA Carling Premiership club. took another twist yesterday. The consortium led by Nigel Wray, the City financier and owner of Saracens rugby union club, is now reassessing whether it wants to continue bidding after the Forest board of directors announced a delay in holding the next emergency general meeting.

Wray's group has offered a £24 million package, on the condition that it is voted on by February 13. However, Forest have arranged the next meeting of shareholders for Febru-

Nina Gardiner, a spokeswoman for the consortium. said: "Our document expires on February 13 and we now have to decide whether we will extend the deadline for the proposals we have put forward to Forest." At the last emergency meeting, earlier this month, shareholders rejected the rescue plans put forward by Sandy Anderson, a wealthy local businessman.

Middlesbrough have appealed to the Football Association against the three-point penalty, imposed by the FA Premier League, for failing to play the league fixture against Blackburn Rovers at Ewood Park last month. At the time. Middlesbrough - now bot-tom of the FA Carling Premiership — claimed they could not field a side because 23 players were either injured. ili or suspended.

A three-man appeal board is to be set up by the FA. "It is the first time we have had to form a commission of this nature but it will be done as soon as possible," an FA spokesman said yesterday.

Middlesbrough were also fined £50,000 and ordered to pay Blackburn compensation after calling off the game. unilaterally, with barely 24 hours' notice.

Steve Gibson, the Middlesbrough chairman, described the ruling as "profoundly unjust" and said that he would be consulting the club's legal

West Ham United also have their problems. Supporters are to brandish red cards at the board of directors this afternoon, when Wrexham visit Upton Park in an FA Cup third-round replay, in an ef-fort to prompt it into negotiations with Michael Tabor, a multimillionaire former bookmaker and West Ham fan.

Tabor has £30 million available to finance the club but claims that he has been ig-nored by the board. Gary Firmager, editor of Over Land and Sea, the West Ham fanzine, said: "There is no way you cannot support Tabor when you are lying third from bottom of the table. We are not saying the board has to go, but they have to open a dialogue with Tabor."

Liverpool's visit to Stamford Bridge lomorrow promises something special in a fragmented and distinctly uninspiring FA Cup fourth round. John Barnes returns for Liverpool, the beaten finalists last season, after recovering from a hamstring strain and he has no doubts from where Cheisea's danger will emanate.

[Gian(ranco] Zola is an exceptional talent and I really don't think we've ever seen anyone like him in England before," Barnes said. "He has given Chelsea a new dimension and made them a real threat. He is his country's

[Italy's] best talent." Manchester United also welcome a fresh face for their all-Premiership contest at Old Trafford with Wimbledon, but one not nearly as experienced as Barnes. Chris Casper, son of Frank Casper, the former Burnley player, will make only his fourth full senior appearance as a central defensive replacement for the injured Ronnie Johnsen.

"I will be nervous but I would think there is something seriously wrong if I wasn't," Casper, 21, said. "I was in the same youth team as the other young lads who went into the first team and it has been frustrating that I have not followed, so this game cannot come quickly enough."

Wray reconsiders | Waddle still playing to the crowd David Maddock on the former England

e has been there, done it, missed the penalty. So why is most talented footballer of his generation, scratching a liv-ing at the foot of the Nationwide League first division with Bradford City?

It is a question that puts him on the defensive, but that is an alien instinct and he rallies quickly. "Thirty-six is an age, not an illness. I'm still enjoying playing, and I still feel I'm doing myself justice. I feel very fit, I don't feel any different to the way I did a few years ago. I don't think this is my last season — I now feel I could play on for a couple more years."

Waddle, once of Marseilles and England, has spent the past four months in the footballing wings as his career has started to wind down, first with Falkirk, then Bradford. Centre stage beckons once more this afternoon, though, with a visit to Everton in the lourth round of the FA

It will be a brief moment, a reminder of the mesmeric, nonchalant skills that were cultivated in England and blossomed, spectacularly, in France. There is every chance that Everton will be on the receiving end of his relatively undiminished talents, and that is an uneasy prospect for an FA Carling Premiership side which has lost its last five

league matches. Waddle continues at this lower level because he enjoys playing, cannot give it up. and because no Premiership dub was interested in him when he was freed by Sheffield Wed-

Previous FA Cup meetings

Third round

Coveracy = Wicking No previous factores

Third-round replays

Bollon v Lillon P.S. W.3, D.1, L.1, F.5, A.3 Third-sound result 1-1

Leeds v Crystal Palace P.S. W.S. D. I. L. 1, F.16, A.4 Thyd-count result 2-2

What warm with the form P.S. Vr. 1, D.4, L.1, F.S. A.S. President of the State 1-3

(Home team s full record agents vestor

Biomford v Manchester Cby P.S. W. 1. D.O. L. 1, F.4, A.7 Last mesong: 3-1 (foath round, 1988-88)

wing relishing a return to centre stage the lack of interest. Yet he

nesday. This is a puzzle not just to those who have seen him playing for Bradford this season, but to the player "A lot of people have asked why, and I don't know myself really," he mused. "I suppose people knew I fancy being a manager one day, and that may have been a factor. I had an ankle operation at the start

of the season and that maybe scared people off, too."
Waddle is not a malicious man and is generally as laid-back off the field as on it. But he is an experienced professional with strong opinions on the game, and he suspects that may have been an even bigger reason than his age for

Fourth round

Barranchern v Studipon P 1, W 1, D 9, L 9, F 1, A 0 Last months; 1-0 (sucond round, 1924-25) Carticar v Stretcheld Med P 1, W 1, D 0, L 0, F 3, A 0 Last maeting; 3-0 (accord round, 1979-80)

Last meeting: 3-0 (second round; 1979-80)
Chidean v Livespool
P. 7. W. 4. D. 2. S. F. 14, A. 17
Last meeting: 1-2 (brue): round, 1985-86)
Outby v Aston Was
P. 11, W. A. D. 1. E. F. F. 22. A. 32
Last meeting: 3-4 (brue): round, 1991-92)
Eventon v Bradlood
P. 4. W. 2. D. 2. 1, F. 4, A. 3
Last meeting: 1-0 (brue): round, 1998-87)
Hedhesford v Meditechrough
No previous februes
Lacaton v Nomenh

Lacticior y Novech P 4. W 3, D 0, L 1, F 6, A \$ Last meeting: 3-0 (fine) yound, 1978-70;

resents accusations that he caused problems for David Pleat, the Wednesday manager, who released him, just as he resents the treatment he

received from Pleat.
"When David Pleat came to
Sheffield Wednesday, I don't think I was his cup of tea. I always got the impression he didn't want me. When he got the opportunity, he got rid of me. I'm not a troublemaker. 1 have my opinions and I've still got a lot to offer. At the end of the day I was asked questions by a manager and I gave straight answers.

"I had four great years there, but the sad part was the way Pleat obviously said 'I



Waddle's days with Sheffield Wednesday ended unhappily

FA CUPSTATISTICS.

1990-91)

Manchester Utd v Wirthisdon P 1, W 1, D 0, L 0, F 3, A 0 Last meeting: 3-0 (With round, 1983-94)

CPR v Barreloy P 1, W 0, D 0, L 1, F 0, A 1 Last meeting: 0-1 (fough round, 1909-10)

Amend winners (S). Asten Ville: wir

P 14, W 6, D 8, L 3, F 19, A 17

Parsmouth v flouring P3, W1, D0, L2, F2, A4 Last meeting 0-1 (seeped rou

FA Cup pedigree

don't need him any more' when Wednesday won their first four games [this season]. What will always upset me is the timing — at my age I thought I deserved a bit better treatment. I put four hard years into the club and I wasn't treated with any respect. When he gave me my free, it was as if I should be grateful."

He will not move into

management just yet, despite the apparently low-key end to a career that peaked at the start of the decade with a World Cup semi-final and a European Cup final. They were heady days. "Marseilles was the ultimate, I loved every minute there, and I am still in their hearts when I go back." He is looking forward to the visit to Goodison Park today and a chance to step back into the limelight. It is a prospect that he believes illustrates why he should not shuffle, in that trademark homehed manner, from the field forever. Once I call it a day, I'd like to

them playing the way I want to." he said. "But not yet. I haven't lost any ability, and I really am enjoying playing with Bradford I do miss the Premiership - the big crowds and the big stadiums - and I am really excited at the prospect of going back for one last

mould my own team and get

"I did think last year every ground I played at would be the last time, so it is nice to be back with the big boys. I've-been thinking about it, the chance to pit myself against the likes of Ferguson and Barmby, and it's a real treat."

food: sich round. Carliste: 10th round. Chalaste: Winnine (1). Chestediaid: 10th round. Covering: winners (1). Crystal Palante: 10th Leedy: Winners (1). Crystal Palante: 10th Leedy: Winners (2). Leeder: Winners (7). Leicester Chy: 5nd. Liverpool: winners (5). Lixor Snel. Liverpool: winners (5). Lixor Snel. Manchester Chy: winners (6). Manchester Utd: winners (6). Manchester Utd: winners (6). Rounder: seth round. Newcastle: winners (6). Rounder: seth round. Newcastle: winners (2). Paterborough: soft round. Violenter violence (1). Critic first. Reacting: semi-lined. Stretteid Wechnesday: warners (3). Stockpoot: fifth cound. Westlood: winners (1). Wooding: family winners (1). Wooding: family winners (1). Wooding: family would with the cound. Westlood: since family wooding: family pound. Westlood: starts ground. Westlood: winners (1).

DESBOROUGH |

Sturrock has taste * of things to come

By KEVIN McCARRA

SUCCESS is supposed to act as a form of steroid, making a man's nostrils flare and his muscles, bulge, All of which makes St Johnstone's mood, as they prepare to meet Rangers in the third round of the Tennents Scottish Cup at lbrox this afternoon, a little puzzling. The Perth club ought to have every reason to feel a little brash.

Having lost just three matches this season, they lead the Bell's Scottish League first division by II points and promotion, usually a most elusive prize, is virtually in their possession already. Paul Sturrock, St Johnstone's manager, is swift to argue, though, that even great progress can carry most Scottish teams only

I believe Celtic and Rangers will win the league for ever more," he said, recognising the overwhelming wealth of the Old Firm, in a week that has seen the Ibrox club raise E40 million of fresh investment from Joe Lewis, the Bahamas-based businessman. One would not guess, either, that he is filled with hope over a single meeting with Rangers today.

This will be a taste of what we can experience if we get promoted, but a visit to Ibrox might not be the kind of tasts you want too often," Sturrock said. The difficulties to be faced there are, indeed, substantial and with Brian Laudrup suffering with injury and flu. Rangers will probably be able to rest him and allow Sebastian Rozental, their new £4 million signing, to start his first match for the club.

Sturrock talks, too, of the difficulty of devising a strategy for this tie. His side cannot take too many risks, since Rangers are most effective as a counter-attacking team, but the St Johnstone manager also appreciates that the Scottish Cup holders are equipped, if need be, to wear down defensive opponents through a pro-

cess of attrition. It would nonetheless be will make his way to Ibrox division thin.

merely to deliver an unconditional surrender. He may describe his record in cup football as player and manager as "abysmal", but the deprecation of himself and his side is delivered for tactical

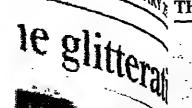
His players are being re-minded that promotion is their principal task and Sturrock is also attempting to relieve them of the inherent stress of a match against Rangers at Ibrox. Since St Johnstone are evidently too strong for the first division, it must be assumed that there is a chance of an interesting contest, as long as the loss of

an early goal is avoided. Sturrock still does not know whether his full backs. John McQuillan and Callum Davidson, will be fit to take part. No matter who is involved, however. Throx is not really likely to witness the removal of a premier division club from the Scottish Cup. Those with a ghoulish relish of the sight of the mighty in distress will look

elsewhere. They may well congregate at Firhill, where Motherwell face Partick Thistle, a side whose form, if fittul, still suggests that they can whip up a rousing contest. Mundo MacLeod, the Partick manage er, was wary, though, of it threat posed by the Mother well strike force. "Owen Coste has gone to Motherwell and scored three times in three: games so he is clearly on form at the moment," he said.

Dundee United's tie away to Stirling Albion also provokes. interest, but the premier division club have had their best series of results in 13 years, and calamity should not befall them now.

Of the other premier division representatives. Raith Rovers face the greatest hazards, but they do not visit Airdrie, at Broadwood, autil. Monday. Celtic's match with Clydebank, to be played at Firbill, goes ahead temorrow and Paolo di Canio may be fit to add to the obvious difficulfolly to assume that Sturrock ties faced by the troubled first



Receivers in race to rescue crisis club

BY JASON NISSÉ AND RUSSELL KEMPSON

after the directors of the club

injunction preventing Lloyds, which is owed £2.3 million,

from calling in the receivers.

director, was critical of Lloyds

for turning down the proposed

refinancing plan. This is an absolute disaster for the club

and its creditors, who now

the first club to play while in

receivership — most recently, Gillingham laboured under El

million of debts before being

rescued in July 1995; Middles-

brough collapsed in 1986, to be

rescued by a consortium led

by Steve Gibson, the present

chairman, and Wolverhamp-

ton Wanderers has been in

Millwall went into adminis-

tration earlier this week with

debts of £10 million and losses

of £250,000 a month, it is

deal involving a 66 million

share issue in the next six

Alan Buckley, the former

West Bromwich Albion man-

transfers meant the club made

a loss of £1,956,111 for the last

expected to be rescued in a

receivership twice.

Bournemouth will not be

won't get paid," Pack said.

Roy Pack, a Bournemouth

- had lost a bid for a court

RECEIVERS appointed to League may ask for a transfer AFC Bournemouth, the struggling Nationwide League secoud division club, have 14 1 Arthur Andersen moved in days to find a rescue plan or many of the team's players

Lloyds Bank museum ander accountants, Arthur Ander Lloyds Bank brought in the sen, yesterday after rejudence the club's deal to restructure the club's 445 million of debts. Bourne-150 million or second mouth, spacearth in the second mouth, spaceout at 160,000 a division, is losing £60,000 a month, before interest.

The Football league to lowing the team to play to-City and may be prepared to allow Bournemouth to carry on for the rest of the season. "We want to retain League football in Dorset a spokes-ाध्य man said.

The League said it wanted assurances from Arthur Andersen that it could meet fixture commitments. The accountants believe the club's ground at Dean Court can be sold to developers for £2 million. They have been approached by a number of white knight rescuers and are considering offers.

However, legal experts pointed out that Arthur Andersen is unlikely to keep the club running beyond 14 days. If receivers dismiss players after the two-week deadline, the accountants are fiable to make redundancy payments, so it is expected that if the club continues beyond two weeks. it will be with the players as free agents employed on a - match-by-match basis. At that point, any of Bournemouth's players can leave for free. The



Buckley: dispute

FOOTBALL

Smith takes a break from being a football chairman and sets to work loading more bricks for his delivery round

Hednesford cross cultural divide

the pitch, will the contrast be greater than in the directors' scating. Imagine the conversation before the FA Cup fourth-round tie at the Riverside Stadium today. Mike Smith, chairman of Hednesford Town, to Steve Gibson, the Middlesbrough chairman: "How's your multimillion pound international haulage business doing. Steve?" Gibson: "Fine, thanks.

age business, too, but it failed. Now he drives a lorry, deliver-

Where did your brick round take you this week, Mike?" ager, who was dismissed on Wednesday, is considering taking legal action against the If there is a world of a Nationwide League first divi-sion club. Buckley had 2's difference between the globetrotting football mercenaries years left on his contract. such as Fabrizio Ravanelli worth around £250,000, but is Hednesford's main marksman, the long-serving understood to have been of fered only £70,000. Joe O'Connor, it is no differ-Transnere Rovers have reent at chairman level. Gibson, ported a record loss of nearly is one of the North East's most £2 million. A fall in gate successful businessmen, whose money has transformed Midreceipts and a lack of profit on dlesbrough. Smith had a haul-

financial year. It compares with a profit of £92,799 in the ing bricks around the country. previous 12 months. The business was not do-The Football Association of ing well," Smith said. "I just Ireland (FAI) has ordered a came in one night and said: '1 IOUNY SOURY INTO DULICI employer, he joined the cmthe Republic's own national ployed and each morning this football stadium for the millennium. At present, the FAI week he has loaded up his lorry with bricks. His workrents the Irish Rugby Union's stadium at Lansdowne Road. mates have taken 50 tickets for tomorrow, "My boss is going Dublin, for international games and is contracted to to be in the crowd and I am going to be sitting in the directors' box." Smith said, remain there until 2000. Hodgson's choice. Magazine lapping it up.

David Powell finds

underdogs revelling in their moment in football's spotlight

Without a brick wall in the Hednesford goalmouth, the Vauxhall Conference club may be heading for a thrashing on the ground of FA Carling Premiership oppo-nents. "I think we have gone about as far as we can go." John Baldwin, the Hednesford manager, said on the night of the third-round defeat of York City. "We will take the planks up on the Friday night. with hammers and nails."

If bricks, planks and nails are forbidden, at least Bald-win has his lucky Bugs Bunny tie to go with his chipmunk laugh. He cut a cartoon figure himself after the York game a tubby, bespectacled man, with Bugs Burny tie, sitting atop the club washing machine, giggling and repeating: "Brilliant, brilliant. It is less

Bugs may need substituting because, five days later. Hednesford went out of the FA Umbro Trophy, 3-1 at Northwich Victoria. Steele and Paul Tait, skilful though they looked, are hardly Ravanelli and Juninho, but

Cup Final than to the Trophy

FA **CUP**

they gave the Hednesford defence the runaround. One could see Middlesbrough converting sloppiness like this into double figures. The outcome was just as

Baldwin had feared and not one of his players dared look him in the eye as they walked off the pitch. Standing on the terraces an hour before kickoff, he admitted: "It is unrealistic to expect them not to be thinking about next week. Yet this is probably more important to us than next Saturday because this is our chance to get to Wembley." So Wembley must wait for another year.

🗻 aldwin's tune had Changed. If we get beaten, I shall be very disappointed," he said. "I do Middleshmugh, Northwich or tiddlywinks at home."

The Hednesford travel club took one coach to Northwich: 38 are booked for tomorrow and support will exceed 5,000. four times their average home gate, "Pressure? This is not pressure." Baldwin said.
"Pressure is when you have

SNOOKER

JOEL CHAN

Frustrated Davis lets silence do his talking

By PHIL YATES

STEVE DAVIS, for so long the most quotable player in the game, gave monosyllabic responses to media questions after being beaten 5-4 by Mark King in the first round of the Regal Weish Open at Newport

Defeat in itself has never prevented Davis from being anything other than co-operative. One can only assume his series of "Yes" or "No" answers stemmed from a deepseated frustration at the manner in which he was eliminated from the first ranking tournament of the year.

Davis, six times the world champion yet without a title since his success in this tournament in 1995 and down to No 10 in the world rankings, was 3-1 ahead then 4-3 down. He had levelled at 4-4 and led 53-0 in the deciding frame when he missed an elementary black off its spot with the Winning post looming.

King, the world No 39, edged back into the reckoning before he slammed in a difficult brown from distance to initiate the clearance to black that secured a meeting with Andy Hicks or Michael Judge in the second round.

150 people at the ground.

when you are not getting enough to pay the players' wages. This is dreamland."

Dreamland has moved.

"Five years ago, Northwich

would have been a dream for

us, playing a Conference club in the Trophy," Baldwin said.

When he came from local

football management seven

years ago, Hednesford were

near the bottom of the Beazer

Homes League midland divi-

sion, playing at a derelict

Whether Hednesford's for-

ward thrust will crash into

reverse may depend on the

outcome of two off-pitch bat-

ties. The club is being investigated by the Football Association over an applica-

tion to the Sports Ground

Initiative and this week faced

a writ claiming it owes £321,017 for building and con-

It may have been with these

difficulties in mind that Baid-

win, the club's co-owner and

an accountant, said, when

asked what he was looking

forward to most about Mid-dlesbrough: "Receiving the

cheque." Hednesford expect

to make more than £100,000

out of the game and all because Smith made an in-

spired choice when selecting

Baldwin as manager. The is

Hednesford through and

through," Smith said. A real

brick. Hednesford's chairman

might have said.

struction work.

"I've practised with Sieve a lot and he has given me some right good hidings." King, who, like Davis, hails from Romford, said, "Maybe that's why me beating him has hurt a bit. It is probably my best ever win because it is still quite a feat to get the better of In an equally tense finish.

Fergal O'Brien, of Dublin, not the most fluent player on the circuit, abandoned the ultramethodical approach for which he is renowned to transform a 4-0 deficit into a 5-4 victory over Martin Clark. O'Brien accumulated only

40 points in the first four frames but, having arrived at the inescapable conclusion that he had nothing to lose, constructed his recovery around breaks of 84, 57, 62, 95 and 55. Even so, O'Brien's rear-

guard action was almost rendered academic. Clark. handicapped by neck pains, ebrae hauled his way back into the deciding frame only to leave a straightforward pink in the jaws of a pocket with the black ideally situated.

RESULTS: First round, F.Q. Brien (Inc) bit M. Clair (Eng): 5-4. J. Swital (IN Inc): bit E. Henschton (Soci): 5-0. In hospacham (Ins): bit D. Finbow (Eng): 5-0. M. Fung (Eng): bit S. Daws (Eng): 5-4. A. Drago (Malla): bit D. Henry (Soci): 5-3. J. Higgins. (Soci): bit G. Dor (Soci): 5-3.

SPORTS POLITICS

Sproat names lottery winner

GOLF

Below-par Daly takes the money and runs

By JOHN HOPKINS GOLF CORRESPONDENT

IS John Daly really worth it? Can the thousands of dollars the sponsors spent on luring him to Hope Island in Queensland, and the similar king's ransom no doubt needed to persuade him to fly across Australia to Perth to compete in the Heineken Classic next week, be considcred money well spent?

The question is asked because of Daly's apparent inability to try in some tournaments. A seven-over-par 79 in the second round of the Johnnie Walker Classic yesterday, when added to his first-round 77, meant that he missed the halfway cut by ten strokes. This is not the scoring of a man intent upon the task in hand, but of one who has given up.

In the United States, there was once a pattern to Oaly's play. If he did not start well, his subsequent rounds became noticeably worse if he could not win, he could not be bothered. This did not endear him to his peers, because they felt he was letting them down by implication.

He does not seem to have rid himself of this habit. His two rounds in Australia totalled 12 over par and only four of the 155-strong field scored worse than the 1995 Open champion.

Daly generates a lot of publicity wherever he plays but appears to overlook the obligation that is placed upon someone receiving a lot of money, whether it described as a sponsorship fee or "turn-up money", as Sandy Lyle once called it.

This obligation is that he should behave like a true professional and do his best to give a decent return on this money. When Greg Norman failed to qualify for the last two rounds of a tournament in Switzerland, he returned half his appearance fee. Will Daly do the same?

Vijay Singh, Wayne Grady, the 1990 US PGA champion. and Peter Senior all missed the cut yesterday, all recording far worse scores in the second round than the first. Singh went from a 71 to a 79 Grady a 73 to a 76. Senior a 69 to a 78. However, good scoring was possible, even on a windy day, as Alexander Cejka, of Germany, demonstrated - his 67 equalled the course record. He is on 140, four strokes behind the leader. Michael Long, of New Zealand.

urrock hash f things to co

2 3 to 12 to 大学 (10年) (10年)

WAS THE ST

ICE SKATING

Britain frozen out of final

From John Hennessy in Paris

THE women's short pro-... gramme of the European figure skating championships, as so often in the past, proved to be a graveyard of British hopes here at the Bercy Stadium yesterday. Among those who failed was Jenna Arrowsmith, the national champion, which means that. for the third year running, Britain has no domestic interest in the final this afternoon.

Only 24 skaters are allowed to go through and Arrowsmith was spared last place in a field of 30 by a Norwegian. The same fate befell Arrowsmith two years ago, but at least she was then only a callow 14-year-old. Stephanie Main was the culprit last year. It is no surprise to find Irina

Slutskaya, the young Russian, leading the parade. Only a year older than Arrowsmith, she already has one European title on her CV, plus a world

championship bronze medal. Unlike her two compatriots, who had finished ahead of her in their national championship, Slutskaya kept her nerve yesterday. Perhaps there should be more of a running edge on her jumps, but the triple lutz in combination with a double toe loop and the triple loop at least held up. Slutskaya's fellow Musco-

vite and the Russian champion, Maria Butyrskaya, feli while attempting a combina-tion triple flip and only just held onto the triple loop and double axel. She consequently

finished ninth, four unanswerable points behind the leader. The men's final on Thurs-

day evening had thrown up one of those curiosities for which figure skating is notorious. With one man to skate. the winner was apparently the holder. Viacheslav Zagorodniuk, of Ukraine, with Philippe Candeloro, of France, in fourth place.

The placings then went when Andrei awry Vlascenko's marks came up. The German was only sixth. yet his intrusion among the statistics lifted Alexei Urmanov, the Olympic champion from Russia, from second place to first and, to general jubilation, Candeloro into the silver-medal position.

BOWLS

Gourlay announces case for the defence

IN YEARS gone by, holders of the world indoor singles championship have found that defending the title is a very different proposition to winning it in the first place and have, on occasion, bowed out in the first round of the following year's event (David Rhys Jones writes). Yesterday. however, in easing to a fourset defeat of Jeff Rabkin, of Israel, at the Preston Guild Hall, David Gourlay Jr shrugged off that pressure with a nonchalance that suggests he can retain his crown. Gourlay, at 30 a product of Scotland's most illustrious bowling family, emphasised that he is a genuine contender for the SAGA world indoor

play. The Prestwick player's relentless drawing to the jack and delicately-weighted deliveries soon took him into a two-set lead and, although the wheels came off in the third set, which Rabkin won 7-3. Gourlay regained control.

Bidding to become the fourth man to win the title two years running, he wrapped up his win with the help of one gentle take-out in the fourth set, when he nudged a Rabkin front-toucher sideways a matter of a mere six inches to claim a treble, that was the stuff of dreams - or, in Rabkin's case, nightmares. "They told me before I came

here that David was good," Rabkin said afterwards. "He was too good for me."

THE new UK Sports Council is to become a distributor of National Lottery funds - the

By DAVID MILLER

in the creation of the new Academy for Sport Opposition to the body's constitutional change that Lord MacLaurin, its chairman, has declared to be basic to its successful function. The necessity was underlined two weeks ago at the first open conference of the

UKSC. Iain Sproat, the minister for sport, has responded swiftly. "The change will be introduced as quickly as possible," he said yesterday, "This was my original intention to be a funding bodyl but there was opposition." The news will be welcomed by MacLaurin because the

power that goes hand in hand with money will facilitate the UKSC's closer collaboration lottery-distributor status came, I understand, from Sir Rodney Walker and Derek Casey, the respective chairman and director of the former Great Britain Sports Council, now the England Sports Council. They sensed that their own influence would be reduced. This will indeed be so, but it is an unavoidable aspect of the long-overdue

rationalisation and cent-

ralisation of British sports

Funding capacity will be essential to the UKSC's other prime objectives besides raising the level of elite international performance: namely,

Mürren

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain

administration.

bringing more international championship events to Britain and actively pursuing the election of British representatives to international governing bodies, a collective authority abroad that has

gradually been eroded. Both of these activities can help restore British sports prestige, vet both require lengthy and costly campaigns. These have to be financed by the respective domestic governing body, whose funds are already overstretched by the needs of competition. Sproat also intends to intro-

duce Commonwealth scholarships at the academy and to operate an exchange training system with countries such as South Africa.

L - lower slopes, U - upper

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والمراب والمعافظ والمرابع والمنافع والم

BOWLS FOOTBALL. TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP: Third TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP: Third round: Hoberman 2 Aberdeam 2. AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Crystel Pelace 5 Swentees 0 PONTRY'S CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Sunderland 1 Notis County 2 Second division: Menchester City 0 Shrivesbury 0. CENTRAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Wordseler City 1 Borresgrove 0 SCHOOLS MATCHES: FA Premier League Under-19 Trophy: Notinghambrie 7 Leaceter Shrives 4 FA Premier Degue Under-16 Trophy: Wast Yorkshite 0 Greater Manchester 3; Durham 1 Northumberland 2

CRESTA RUN CRICKET

BALLROOM DANCING BOURNEMOUTH: Pioneer United King

BOURNEMOUTH: Pioneer United King-dom Open championships: Amateur La-in: 1, Morther Wentrik and Basta (SA): 2. Holger Nesche and Chefette Egstend (Den): 3, Islaminer and Neolé Culter (Engl. 4, Anche) Stotica and Kalasina Venturini (Shwana): 5, Stern Lund and Met Bech (Den): 6, Gusorgu Vughegorodrew and Karne Kalinacheva (Russ) Professional Modern: 1, Maraus and Karen Hiton (Engl. 2, Luca Barocht and Leraine Beny (Engl.): 3 Augusto Schiero and Carente Professional 4, Fabio Selm and Smorta Fanceto (II): 5, Kim Rygel and Cacele Pypel (Nor): 6, Hiro and Kyoko Amario (Jopan)

BASKETBALL NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA) Mamil 99 Terento 87: Chicago 87 Cieveland 71; New York 92 Indiana 90; Ortanoa 86 Mil-waukae 92: Houston 111 New Jersey 104: Mirmsous 65 Vancouve 76, Detrot 94 Gol-den State 79; LA Cippers 102 Seattle 100

BILLIARDS HYDERABAD: Gold Flake Open: Final: M Russell (Eng) bt P Glictinst (Eng) 7-3

PRESTON: Sags world indoor champion-ship: First round: 0 Gourley (Scot) or J Rablen (Isr) 7-3, 7-2 3-7, 7-2

ST MORRIT2: Mersclen Cup: 1, J B Sunley (GB) 163 92pts. 2 C Tesclorp! (Ger) 165 02. 3, C Bertschripc: (Switz) 165 39. 4, M Mettler (Switz) 167.11, 5, C A Haeberli (Switz) 168.00, 6, A D Green (GB) 169 28

One-day international South Africa v India

BLOEMFONTEIN (South Atrica won toss) South Africa beat India by 39 runs BOUTH AFRICA A C Hudson c Tendulier b Prased G Kirsten c Singh b Prased.....

L klusener run out.

D J Cultinan c Jadeja b Kumble
J N Rinodes not out
*W J Cronje not out
Eoras (fo 6, w 7, no 2) FALL OF WICKETS: 1-36, 2-54 3-165, BOWLING Sweeth 10-0-50-0 Pracad 10-1-63-2; Ankola 10-0-45-0; Kumble 9-0-44-1; Singh 8-0-40-0; Jadeja 3-0-22-0.

INDIA
S C Canguly o Rhodes b Donaid
"S R Tendulkar b Pollock
1 Smath o Cullinan b Klusener".
M Azharodin b Klusener.
R S Draidd b Symcox
A Jaden e Richardson b Crone
R Sign b Symcox
S Karm b Klusener

FOR THE RECORD S Ankols b Kiusener A Kumble o Rickardson b Kiusener B k V Presed not out

title with an impressive dis-

Edges (b.1, lb.3, a.10, nb.4) BOWLING Pollock 5-0-65, 1 Matthews 5-0-31-0 Donald 9-0-43-1 Klusener 8-4-0-42-5; Symbol 10-0-38-2 Copie 7-1-27-1 Man of the matter. J N Bhodes Limples S 8 Lambson and C J Muchley

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Sydney (second day of lour) South Australia 154, New South Wales 3425 (s. J. Flobores 119, M. J. Stote 102, G. R. J. Maithews not out 581, Hobart 1021 of lour): Tustmana 289-9 (J. Cox. 95, M. J. DeVenuso 65) v. Western Australia.

GOLF

HOPE ISLAND, Queensland: Johnnie Walker Classic: Second-round qualifiers (Great Brisan and Ireland unless slazed): 136 M Long (NZ) 68, 68, 138: 5 Ets. (54) 70, 68 P Lonard (Aus.) 69, 69, 139: P Eales 59, 70, 1 van de Vaste (Fr) 70, 69 140: A Cejas Island 73, 67 A Pamer (Aus) 67, 73, 141: M Campbell (NZ) 70, 71 D Hower 68 72, 8 Leaney (Aus) 69, 72 P O'Mallov (Auc) 73, 68: S Alber (NZ) 68, 73, 142; C Sureson (50) 75 E7; M Turnichin 69 73 M Farry (Fr) 72, 70, N Falco 70, 72 F Ternaud (Fr) 72, 73 S Conson (Aus) 67, 75, D Camp 67, 75 B Lane 71, 71, 143: J Haeegman (Swit) 70, 73, T G-opole (Gen 71, 72; F Nobio (NZ) 70, 73, T G-opole (Gen 71, 72; F Nobio (NZ) 70, 73, T G-opole (Gen 71, 72; F Nobio (NZ) 70, 73, F Casas (Pln) 68, 75, 144, A Bossen (Swit) 71, 74, G Chalmers (Aus) 71, 73 S Robinson (Aus) 72, 72, G Evens 73, 71, R Gloson (Can) 68, 76; R Green (Aus) 71, 73 Trang Lenners (Chans) 69, 75; S Laucob (Aus) 68, 76, P Hammgton 71, 75; F Cauples (US) 68, 76, P Hammgton 71, 75; F Cauples (US) 67, 76, 145; 68 Steales (Aus) 74, 77; M McFarlane 72, 73, R Dens (Aus) 70, 75; Chug Guern-soon (Swit) 73, 79; B Lenger (Gen) 73, 72; C Montgomene 77, 74; M

Harwood (Aus) 74 71 A Ericcor (See; 72 73 A Anneal India 167 78 D Conte 72 73 P Baker 77; 74 J Lomas 73 72 7 Teshena (Jepan) 72, 73 146; P Devenoon (NLT 7), 75 A Forstrand (See; 74, 72, 8 Allenzy 1846; 73, 75, P Price 76 70 * Hong Chawla 173, 75, P Price 76 70 * Hong Chawla 173, 74, 18 J Fothson 72, 74 R Bocali 72, 74; K Yelson (Japan) 72, 74, R Pascons (Los 69 77, D Galord 70, 76 5 Annes (Iffer 12 74), 72 G Dr 71 75, J Fothson 72, 74 R Bocali 72, 74; K Yelson (Japan) 72, 74, R Pascons (Los 69 77, D Galord 70, 76 5 Annes (Iffer 12 74), See (Los 69 77, D Galord 70, 76 5 Annes (Iffer 12 74), See (Los 69 77, D Galord 70, 76 5 Annes (Iffer 12 74), See (Los 75), See (Los

PORT EDWARD Wal Coast Challenge, Leaders after new rounds (South Africa unless blatech 132: D Solas 66: 66: 134: M Mortelly (Zim) 66: 68: C Whitelaw 66: 68: 138: A P Bones 69: 71: 37: M Kaan 70: 67: 138; M Gorrana 70: 68: 139: H Bahooth 70: 25: S Hetrolley (Central 72: 67: D James 69: 70: N; Sortuna 69: 70: 0 James 69: 70: N; Sortuna 69: 70: J Kingston 71: 68; S Daniels 67: 72: 1 Hulchungs 69: 70: N Herstrag 66: 73

ICE HOCKEY SUPERLEAGUE: Manchester 6 Bracknell 3. NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL) Flonda 4 Botton 1; Cascrato 4 Pinsourch 3 (OT), St Louis 4 Vancouver 5, Procesu & Archisem 3

ICE SKATING PARIS: Europeen championships: Men: Final standings after tree programme: 1, A Urmanou (Russ) 40 factored basengs, 2, P Candeloro Fr; 40, 3, v Zegurochiu, (Ukr) 40; 4 1 Nufi, (Russ) 55, 5, A teguron (Russ) 65, 11, S Cousins (GB) 160

SKIIMG KITZBÜHEL, Austrie: Men's World Cup downhill: 1 L. Aprhand (FI) 3min 12 55sec. 2 W. Franz (Austria) 2 12 95, 3 W. Besse Sizing; 2 13 13 4 J. Stroot (Austria) 2 13 22, 5 F. Strobi (Austria) 2 13 36 6 00ual A Example (Nov.) and W. Parathoner (Ity 2 13 38 9 P. Vilairi Ith 21 3 75 10 E. Podransky (Can. 2 13 83

CORTINA D'AMPEZZO, Isaly: Women's CONTINA D'AMPEZZO, teap: Women's World Cup downhits I equal I Nozice (t) and H Zurbriggen (Switz) firm 30 81sec, 3, K Seernger (Sci) 130 83 4, W Zelonskaja (Buss) 130 98, 5, R Goelsch (Austria) 131 23, 6, B Porce (t) 131 5, 7 equal, R Cavagnoud (Fil and P Witters (Swe) 1.31 \$5, 9, H Lindh (US) 1.31 40, 10, k Guntenschn (Gar) 1.31 45

SQUASH

NORTHERN CENTRE, Manchester: AJ Edge national championships: Mer. The round P Lord (Chechmy bit L Drew (Bucks) 3-9 9-10 9-4 3 0; 9-1; L Beachol (Yorks) 3-9 9-10 yell per (Porks) 9-3 9-0 yell suff (Devon) to P Genever (Sussen) 9-7; 9-1, 8-10, 9-5; P Jennson (Ivert) bit D Bradbury (Warweles) 9-6, 10-9, 9-0 B Ball (Suffak) of A Abou Taleb (Ferni 4-9, 9-0 9-5; 9-6) Date (Northambrel) bit C Leach (Warweles) 4-9, 6-9, 9-7, 9-1 9-1 (Wellings) (Sussey) bit (Hogars (Essel) 10-9, 9-6, 9-6, M Cams (Cortn) bit B Ford (Kont) 9-4, 9-1, 9-3, 9-3, 9-5 (Wenner, First brands) Tracker (Forks) bit N Fowler (Chasharo) 9-1; 9-3, 9-3 T Sherrion (Stoffs) bit L McKanna (Soot) 9-4 9-5, 9-3, 9-1, Welling) bit P Nammo (Soot) 9-6, 9-1, 9-1, 5 Migter (Devon) was S Madle (Scot); L Chambrel (Curson) bit L Stoprens (Northambrens) 9-9-0, K Bucktey (Essea) wo A Whey (Porks); S Winght (Kent) bit E Domaldson (Scot) 9-0, 9-0, 9-0

SNOW REPORTS

(5pm) C snow Conditions Runs to Piste Off/p resort ANDORRA 40 180 fair heavy slushy snow 3 24/1 (Upper runs Ok but soft and slushy low down) Soldeu AUSTRIA fair varied closed Mayrholen (Very heavy conditions after lunch)

17ypical spring conditions, best before lunch)

40, 140, good varied good fine 2, 26/1

(Good skiing on most prises no queues tine and dry)

20, 55, fair spring worn cloud 1, 20/1

(Very heavy conditions after lunch) Obergurgi Sál FRANCE 145 175 hard heavy good fit (Hard retrozen snow but mostly still good) 75 235 good heavy slush fit (Maxed conditions with best snow at alliftude) fine 0 21/1 Avoriaz line Flaine Meribel 55 140 good varied slushy sun Higher runs good, lower heavy or stushy) La Plagne fine crust (Spring-like conditions continue) 95 130 good heavy icy 95 130 good heavy icy line (Good sking with cooler weather; some ice low down) 100 170 good vaned icy line (Majority of pistes good but some ice low down) La Tania Tignes 2 22/1 ITALY 90 200 good heavy tair sun (Good snow above 2,100m, some wom spots balow) Lwgno SWITZERLAND 60 305 good varied worn time 5 21/1
(All but lowest runs in good shape; suriny skies)
80 180 good varied good teir 0 20/1
(Cooler weather and pistes firmer, good sking)
80 210 good heavy good time 3 22/1
(Very good piste skiring, no queues) C Montana



SATURDAY JANUARY 25 1997

Bowlers regroup after wayward start

Pocock thrives as England step out of line

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN AUCKLAND

trust himself to speak. Ather-

IF EVER there was a day for Michael Atherton to crave the benefit of hindsight, this was it. Had he known in advance that the Eden Park pitch would bear little malice and that his bowlers would carry no threat, Atherton would not have put New Zealand in to bat and England might not have made such an unpromising start to a first Test they must win to protect their captain's position.

By taking three redeeming wickets in the evening session, England closed the opening day in a negotiable position. But if all was far from lost, the abiding impression was that England ought to have done much better with the ball and might have done better still with the bat.

The logic behind Atherton's decision to bowl was difficult to dispute. It had been a cloudy morning after overnight rain, the pitch was damp and educated opinion insisted it would be at its most helpful in the first session of the game. Lee Germon, the New Zealand captain, said he too would have bowled, given the chance.

But the appearance of a pitch can be as deceptive as the form of a bowling attack and England were betrayed by both. New Zealand reached lunch without losing a wicket, a triumph in the circumstances, and despite their losses as the bowlers belatedly remembered that the object is make batsmen play a shot, this was not a day for England to recall with pride.

"It was a good toss to win, we chose the right option and didn't take advantage of it." David Lloyd, the coach, said. "It's difficult to think that these were the same bowlers who had done so well in the matches prior to this Test.

Mulially emerged with re-They bowled poorly in an speciable figures, not by posimportant first session and ing a threat but through they are aware of it." bowling innocuously wide. Intriguingly, Lloyd stayed Pocock and Bryan Young had away from the dressing-room at lunchtime. "I left them to it," both been found wanting against the swinging ball in Hamilton but England now he said, indicating, perhaps, that his notorious temper was so inflamed that he did not generously averted their gaze

from the vulnerability.

The waywardness of the ton was left to address his attack had an unfortunate bowlers and flattery will not have formed part of the outcome when Alec Stewart, scrambling to gather yet another ball down the leg side, Even allowing for the dedamaged the little finger of his left hand. He was able to pressing fact that England seldom put two successive balls in the right area, this was complete the day's work after not a spiteful pitch. Blair treatment but was said to be "sore", though it was unclear whether this referred to his injury or his view of the bowling. Dominic Cork, completing a

remarkable recovery from a tour-threatening back injury, asked more questions of the batsmen than anyone but, ironically, it was the errant Mulially who made the breach, 20 minutes into the second session. Young, per-haps surprised by an inswinger on line, played all around the ball to leave Steve Bucknor, the umpire, with a simple decision.

Cork's penchant for taking wickets with undeserving balls has not deserted him, as proved by Adam Parore's swift departure to a leg-side catch by Stewart, but the third wicket then added 79 in 95 minutes. Pocock's obduracy contrasting with the freedom

hander, Stephen Fleming.

Phil Tufnell, narrowly preswung lavishly in the first hour and Alan Mullally, in ferred to Robert Croft as particular, bowled with a com-England's solitary spin ier, duelled engagingly plete absence of elementary control. Ball after ball swung with Fleming, who strikes the harmlessly down the leg side, ball so sweetly that it seems inconceivable he has failed to allowing the batsmen to bed down without alarms or serimake a century in his first 20 Tests. He on-drove Tufnell for Not for the first time. six but, in repeating the stroke when the bowler changed ends, was lucky to see the ball land just over the head of Mullally, who had strayed off

the boundary rope. Gough's inswinging yorker accounted for Pocock, Nathan Astle donated a wicket with a flat-footed drive at Craig White and Justin Vaughan's leg-before brought the kind of contorted agneal from Corl that might help to explain why he has back trouble. If Gough had not put down a straightforward chance at mid-off when Chris Cairns had made only five. New Zealand would have ended the day stagger ing. But that would have been more than this England per formance deserved.



he made a dedicated 70, much

his highest Test score, and he

said later: "The pitch didn't do

as much as we leared it might. They probably didn't use the

conditions as well as they

could have done, either." ment. The Kookaburra ball

ous examination.

FULL FIRST DAY SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND: First Immos B A Young libw is Multally 44 (141mm, 119 balls, 5 lours) B A Pocock flow b Gough (285min, 197 balls: 8 fours) A C Parone C Stewart b Cork ...

A C Parone c Stewart b Cork ... 6
148mm, 28 balls 1 four)
9 P Ferming not out ... 58
(181mm, 138 balls, 1 cu, 8 fours)
N J Astle c Stewart b White ... 10
(27mm, 25 balls, 2 fours)
J C Vaughan liber b Cork ... 3
(25mm, 21 balls)
C L Caims not out 15
(22mm, 27 balls, 2 fours)
Street to 5 Ph.S. a. 2 mb.14)
27

27 Extres (0 5, 10 6 w 2 mb 14) Total (5 wkts, 90 overs, 373mm) . 233 tt. k. Germon, D N Palet, S B Dout and FALL OF WICKETS: 1-86 (Paccel 28), 2-114 (Paccek 42), 3-193 (Pleming 48), 4-210 (Pleming 54), 5-215 (Pleming 56)

hours; 5-0-17-0, 4-1-11-0, 7-2-11-1, 5-1-14-1), Mulailly 18-6-33-1 (this 3; w 2 3 lours; 4-3-2-0, 7-2-19-1, 3-0-7-0, 4-1-5-0), Gought 20-3-51-1 (rib 8, 5 tours, 4-0-10-0, 5-1-19-0, 8-2-22-1); Tulmell 20-5-46-0 (1 str. 5 tours, 3-1-5-0, 5-1-13-0, 12-3-28-0), White 11-3-39-1, (rib 2, 6 tours; 4-1-17-0, 2-0-12-0, 5-2-10-1) SCORING NOTES: First day: Lunch: 72-0 (29 overs, 121mm; Young 37, Pocock 25) Tas: 154-2 (56 overs, 241mm; Pocock 54, Fenning 29). Second new ball: 214-4 (80.2 overs) at

THE rugby union career of lonah Lomu, who buildozed his way to fame in the 1995 World Cup, may be over at the age of 21. Lomu, the New Zealand wing, yesterday an-nounced that he would be unable to play for the next six months because he is suffering from a kidney disorder. Doctors have given him only a 50-50 chance of making a full recovery.

By JOHN GOODSOO!

AND DAVID HANDS

Lomu, the outstanding player of the 1995 global tournament in South Africa with his 6ft 5in, 18-stone physique, first had the problem diagnosed two years ago and he has been taking antibiotics in an effort to control it.

Speaking in Auckland yes-terday, Lomu said: "I feel very positive about the treatment. I have got the best doctors on the case and I never lie down and let anything trample over

me. This is just a hiccup. "It is a chance I have to take and it is better than doing nothing about it. I would rather miss out six months than miss out on a whole lifetime of living, really."

Lomu, who was born in Auckland of Tongan parents, and of whom Will Carling

said after England's 45-29 defeat in the World Cup semifinal, "he is awesome, a freak - I wish he would go away", is suffering from a disease

known as nephrotic syndrome. John Maybew, the New Zealand doctor, said: "The characteristics of this disease, caused by chronic kidney damage, is that he is suffering from low body protein in his blood

"He is more susceptible to infection and he gets into trouble with swelling, especially after long flights. For the past 18 months, he has been dragging a cart around, meta-phorically. How he has managed to train and play I am not sure. We have been monitoring his condition and it has deteriorated markedly in that

period of time." He added that Lornu was now taking "heavy-duty" drug therapy and this meant that he would not pass drug tests.

Lomu may have been prescribed cortico-steroids and possibly diuretics, both of which would contravene the drug regulations of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Peter McMullan, the spokesman for the International Rugby Board, in Dub-

LOMU FACTFILE

The World Cup semi-final in Cape Town had hardly begun when Lomu scorched past Tony Underwood for the first of his four tries

Jonah Lomu: is this the end?

Honouric 1995: World Cup runner-up 1998: Super 12 winner with Arickland Basel Milliones has size 15 feet, a 20 inch neck and a 50-inch chest. III After the 1995 World Cup, Wigen medical 0000,000 bid for his message who the Datas Cowloys offered \$1.25 million to tempt him to play American toolball. terript him to play Arrescent tootbell. If He played rupby league up to the age of 14, when his passats, sent him to Westey. College, a Methodist boarding achaol near Auckland. A special bed had to be built because he was already over 8t tail. If At school he won a 100 meters rece in 10.85sec and at 18 he won the provincial schools 110 meters hundles, jevello, long jump and triple jump titles.

lin, said: "We cannot make any exceptions. If something is prohibited by the IOC, it is prohibited by the board. We march absolutely alongside

the IOC on drug regulations."
Dr John Davies, the chairman of the board's drug committee, confirmed the policy, adding: "In any case, this is a serious condition and he would not be able to play while he is undergoing treatment. We just hope he recovers."

Dr Simon Cohen, a consultant pephrologist at the University College Hospital, London, said that the condisuffers from swelling in the legs because of the loss of

protein in the urine. The outlook would depend on the results of the biopsy. "If it were minimal change syndrome then a course of cortico-steroids should abolish it." Cohen said. "This is the ikeliest case - However, if there are blood pressure problems or impaired kidney function, then the outlook is much

less good." Lomu's career is insured through the New Zealand Rugby Football Union, Yesterday he had contractual negotiations with the union and Recbok, his main sponsor. His advertising endorsements are thought to be worth about £2

John Hart, the New Zealand coach, said: "I have to say." just how much respect I have for Jonah. He has battled the odds dramatically. I have seen that, no more graphically than in the [New Zealand] Barbarians game against England in November, when he suffered a groin strain before the game and he went out and played and did tremendously well: He showed great courage."

Lorna built up his physique by eating his favourite Tongan meal of corned beef and raro, a

tion occurs when the patient Pacific Island root vegetable. served with coconut cream. He also sometimes consumes during a day 100 feijos, a green New Zealand fruit, the size of Kiwi fruit. "It is where I

get my energy from," he said. Neither of his parents are tailer than 6ft, although both are sturdily built. He is one of six children, but none has Lomu's dimensions.

Although he ran 100 metres in 10.86sec and, as a schoolboy, greatly admired Daley Thompson, the double Olympic decathion champion, he was attracted by rugby union.

His greatest days in the sport were during that 1995 World Cap. He went through the campaign like a runaway steam train and, if he did not score tries himself, his strength created scores for his colleagues.
Nowhere was he seen to

greater effect than in Cape-Town, during the semi-final against England. He scored the first of four tries within a minute of the kick-off and a succession of distinguished England players - Tony Underwood and and Rob Andrew among them - were left trailing in his wake as New Zealand triumphed.

Locks hold final key, page

Taylor to go on offensive

tralia all-rounder, is likely to play against West Indies in the fourth Test match, which starts in Adelaide today, to give his side the attacking option of playing another spin bowler. Although Australia lead the best-of-five-series 2-1 and need only a draw to retain the Frank Worrell trophy. Mark Taylor, the captain, said vesterday that he did not plan to go on the defensive.

Taylor said history showed that almost all the recent Tests between the two sides had ended with a result, and that Australia were likely to name two fast bowlers, two spinners and six specialist batsmen-"If we play Bevo [Bevan] at

seven it won't be a conservative option." Taylor said. "It will be purely because we want to play two spinners in tandem with two quicks. To think about going into a Test match and playing for a draw with seven batsmen would be a very dangerous option. So far this series, we've had three Tests and three results."

Australia, who ended West Indies' 15-year unbeaten record in 1995, began the series in commanding style with convincing wins in Brisbane and Sydney, but a resurgent Curtly Ambrose, the West Indies fast bowler, exploded into action in the third Test in Melbourne and West Indies won inside three days.

Brian Lara, seemingly unable to cope with Glenn McGrath's off-cutters in the first three Tests, has also recovered his form and scored 295 runs in the first three one day internationals of the new year. West Indies, though, do have injury worries over their ageing fast bowlers.

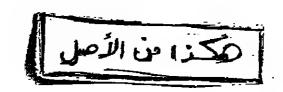
Ambrose had a groin strain and had to bat with a runner his last match, and Courtney Walsh, the captain, has a leg injury.

AUSTRALIA (Hom), M.A.Taylor (captern), M.L. Hayden, J. L. Langer, M.E. Weugh, S.R. Wandt, G.S. Blewert, M.G. Bevan, I.A. Heoly, P.R. Pediel, S.K. Wome, A.M. Buchel, G.D. WEST INDES (Corr.), C.A. Walth (contain S. L. Campbell, R. G. Semuels, Charcespell, B.C. Lara, C.L. Hooper, J.I. Adams, P. V. Serandra, J. R. Marray, 1.1

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SATURDAY JANUARY 25 1997



The dream that died

y generation fell for America, 4 was born in 1939 and from the start America was Dreamland. The town in which I grew up in the 1940s — Wigton, in Cumber-land (pop. 5,000) — was en-closed, church-bidden, rationbooked, all but car-less, a cat's gradle of families and alley ways, still in a hangover of 1920s depression and stuffed with Victorian values. Whatever its own, true deep dreams, which may in the end be stronger than those of Hollywood, it was a planet away from the new worlds flickering twice nightly at the Palace Cinema in Meeting House Lane. America has been Europe's

Promised Land, and its escape route for centuries. About 200 years ago, a few miles from Wigton, in Grasmere, Words-worth and Coleridge would discuss the virgin possibilities of America, in which Coleridge had once planned to settle an ideal commune. From the bitter agricultural areas of Cumbria and the mines off its west coast, working people and their families, including members of my own, had taken up all they had SHOPPING 23 GARDENING 46 PROPERTY 7-16 COUNTRY LIFE H HOME LIFE

Salar Salar

San Birthen

and plunged across the 3,000 miles of ocean in search of a life less oppressive, freer, richer.

In the case of my generation, however, America seemed to be invading us. Their arrival as saviours and as the new Imperialists in the First World War had given an intimation of it. But it was Charlie Chaplin and America's determined and brilliant trade policy of using the movies to sell the States which really did the business.

What I experienced as a boy in Wigton was our former colony making a counter strike for the most powerful colony of all: the imagination.

It began for young males with the cowboy films. The heroes were ordinary people, and all they needed was a horse, a gun and a just cause.
The cowboy identification was helped in Wigton by the ancient presence of horses which far outnumbered cars. But it was the free simplicity of the men

Since boyhood Melvyn Bragg has been in love with

America, but today he finds its culture infantile and violent. Here he describes the end of the affair

kick, slapping our rumps to urge on the steed while nimbly holding the reins in the left hand, clicking tongue against palate to imitate the clopping of the hooves. The primary message of America was etched early and etched deep - one free (American) man of righteousness, alone against a world or a wilderness, would

and did overcome. A little later for me came the musicals. In Wigton at that time many of us whistled tunes as we went up and down the streets, and there was singing in the pubs and in the streets again when the girls linked arms and walked up from the

try efforts into available fantasy, opera for the people, street glamour.

nd the seduction through the movies continued, even with the gangster films the nearest we got to American realism, although we did not realise that at the time. We imitated the accent, we chewed the gum, we smoked like They smoked. The American inva-

sion was under way.
Our next stage, adolescence, was lit up by rock 'n' roll, and the invention of the teenager. American popular music had been lapped up by the British

which sent us all galloping clothing factory. But the musi-down the streets with a hitch-cals metamorphosed our counblues in my case. But Elvis Presley was the great detonator, the white boy with the voice of the sorcerer who brought black music and movement and sex to the millions of young people who longed to be part of that sound and its sensuality.

Music pierces defences unlike any other art; it is like passion itself, and the longing to hear the rock 'n' roll anthems became a fever. There is a café still in Wigton,

The Spotted Cow, run then by my best friend's father, and one day a juke box arrived. It was as if a space ship had landed up the Amazon. If you went in after hours and used tokens (as

.14 FAMILY LIFE...

we did on the very first night) you could play Elvis Presley again and again and again at full blast until it hit the nerve centre like a fix. Wigton's first rock band was formed - the Memphis Five. And my hair was trained and greased into the full Elvis Hokusai fullfrontal wave.

So the teenager arrived in Cumberland with the new hairstyles and the jeans and the claims to belong to a class of its own outside our closed class system. James Dean stamped that home on the screen in Rebel Without a Cause - the epitaph of that time.

Dean came out of Holden Caulfield, and Huck Finn in a progression which marked another strand in the American takeover of the 1940s and 1950s. My generation found their own lives often more accurately mirrored in American fiction than in British fiction.

course, there

. 15 TRAVEL

D.H. Lawrence behind us, and Kingsley Amis and the others to come, but for a time John Steinbeck and Cannery Row with its skiving, drinking, philosophical "boys" seemed much more relevant to the more entertaining human stories lived out in Wigton than anything being written over here. And Steinbeck led to a craze for American writers through Hemingway to Mailer and Bellow. It was they, I thought, who were drawing the master maps of our new-found

traumatic 20th century. All this was in place in the 1960s when I went to New York for the first time. The takeover. so well laid by Hollywood, the music business and the fictions of those postwar years, simply

took off. The great statue was not to a monarch but to an ideal -Liberty. They did indeed seem to dance in the streets - and there was such scandalous abundance in everything. The first meal I attempted was a sandwich in a delicatessen on Broadway. It was so big that only Desperate Dan could have

GAMES.....27

Continued on page 2

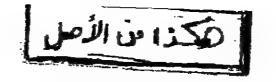
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hen George Bush be-came President of the United States he told the world that now he was the most powerful man in the world, no one could make him eat broccoli any more. His remarks opened up that dark heart of every politician who is driven to power by some terrible childhood toathing. Was John Major so scarred by his postwar experience of brawn that he had to climb all the way to No 10 to get away from it? Perhaps President Clinton could have livened up his tedious inaugural address with the thought, "My fellow Americans, let us build a bridge so that we can go half way and drop pop tarts

For me, true power would mean the option never to have to eat imported tropical fruits. Pawpaws and plantains litter supermarket fruit stalls and restaurant pudding

lists, along with passion fruits and pomegranates. Yet buy one and, without fail, it will be either overripe or hard as a rhino's corn. If a shop sold a tin of mouldy cornflakes, recompense would be swift and complete. Sell a sour tangerine or a ropey, supposedly honeydew melon and it's cavear

Supermarket fruit stalls are like those craft shops which sell tatty Indian artefacts for £100 that go for 10p on the streets of Delhi. So thrilled are we meant to be at the exotic range on offer that the quality becomes immaterial.

Take the avocado pear. A soft West Indian fruit in origin, it was meant to be knocked lazily off its tree and chewed out of its skin. The stone could then be kicked insouciantly down the street. Since it found its way on to salad plates, under cover of dressings and

SERIOUS SHOPPING TROPICAL FRUIT

mayonnaise, however, it has become as leathery as the faces of the health nuts who obsess about it. Go to the avocado section at a fruit stall and you find people squeezing the pears as a sinister plastic surgeon might handle a silicon

The mango, a fleshy, juicy, delicious fruit from the East Indies, like all fruits, has its season. Not that this seems to bother the restaurants which offer it in stringy, odourless chunks cut on the skin that have to be tugged off with an aggressive elbow action. When all those poets wrote about fruit, equating it with love, fertility and downright sex, the tough, what they had in mind.



BY PHILIP DELVES BROUGHTON

Peaches, apples, melons, bananas, even plums and the odd coconut are all rich in sexual innuendo. Had you taken the author of the Song of Solomon to

the average British supermarket fruit stall before he settled down with his sherbert and scribe, however, he would have to have done some serious reworking on

It is still possible to find a decent tropical fruit. apple when required, thanks to the miracles of crop-spraying. Anyone who disagrees with modern intensive fruit farming methods should try an organic apple. Not one fallen from Granny's apple tree full of the taste of childhood, imocence and first kisses, rather the sort sold in organic food shops. dark, muddy and tasting like foot fungus. Laughably expensive, too. But then, there is a justice in the fact that that pinched, agitated look reserved for organic foodies

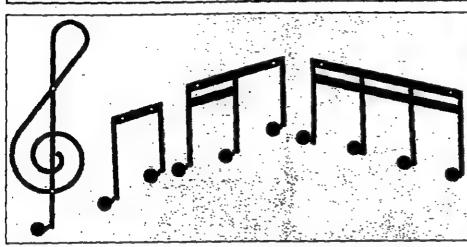
should come at such a steep price. Much underestimated in the hurricane of tough new fruits is the art of tinning. As puddings go, even the most extravagant fruit salad would be pushed to rival the tinned peach, adorned with a cowlick of cream. Tinned lychees are a good example of what can usefully be done with a more

A lychee, bought in its lizardish skin then gnawed out from round its stone, is a bitter-sweet experience. Stone it, skin it and tin it in its own juice, serve it up with vanilla ice-cream even, and you have something fit for the gods.

For the most part, however, shops continue to bombard uswith their poor, expensive versions of the real thing. The more exotic the fruit, the healthier one is led to imagine it must be, the more one is supposed to pay for it. Yet the star

fruit was meant to be eaten in situ in South-East Asia, not imported and sliced on to octagonal black plates in over-ambitious English restaurants. Guava, kiwi and sharon fruits are a menace, winking from their shelves with the promise of sweet pleasures and tropical musk, when all they do is fleece their buyers before revealing tired old flesh beneath their exotic

wrappings.
For those fruit fascists who insist that grisly plantain or rubbery pawpaw are the only guarantees of a permanent state of hydro-colonic bliss, there are some very reasonable package trips to the Caribbean and Far East. They cost no more than a few trips to, the organic food shop, the fruit might be ripe, and the rest of us can get stuck into a custard-smothered rhubarb crumble. · Giles Coren is away.



ABOVE: Ten sturdy plastic trooks in four separate musical pieces, £14.95 (including p&p) in black or

Hang it, try the new hook look

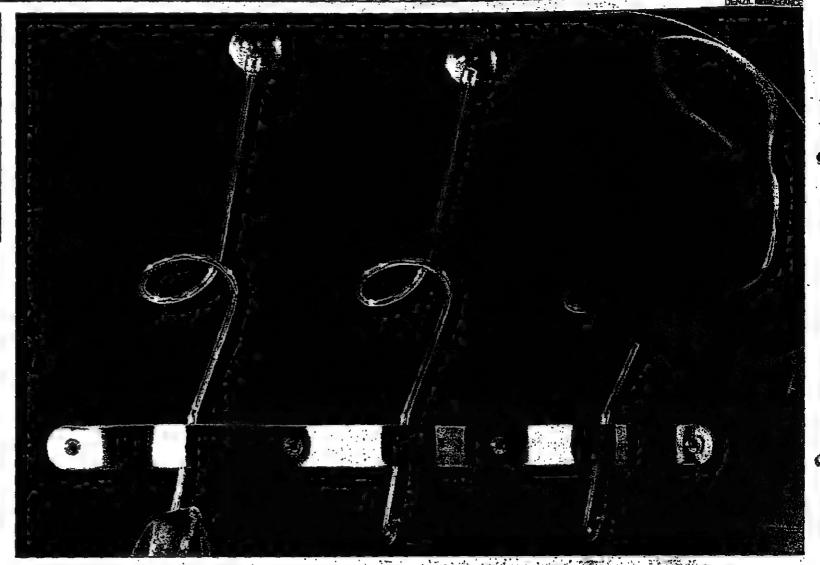


HOUSES have a habit of shrinking once all your clutter has moved in, too. So to get maximum usage from minimum square footage has become an industry in itself. Shops such as the Holding Company in London specialise in storage, as do several mail-order catalogues brimming with ingenious new systems for a compact, tidy lifestyle. But few things can beat the good old-fashioned hook a practical addition to any kitchen, bathroom, bedroom or hallway. And, in the house-proud 1990s, they have taken on a whole new decorative lease of life.

SOPHIE CHAMIER

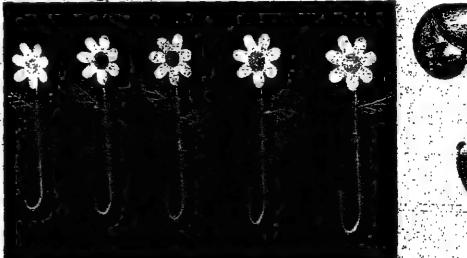
LEFT: Viper iron-crafted cost hook by Maurice Long, 229.95, from Heals, 196 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-636 1666) and branches ABOVE: Quasimodo cost hooks in solid beech with clear-lacquered steel hooks, £69 for set of five (or three hooks, £55), from Aero, 96 Westbourne Road, W2 (0171-221 1940)

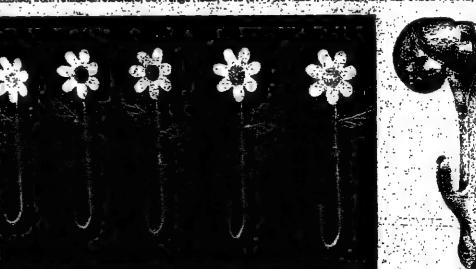
RIGHT: Handmade in South Africa, a five-hook wire rack (22cm x 18cm), 98,95 (p&p £1) from Ukwenza at Idonia van der Biil. 25a Museum Street, WC1 (0171-636 4650)



ABOVE: Chrome with resin tips, the Why Not cost-hook set by Italian designers Zerodisegno; £75, from Purves-8, Purves, 83 Tottenheim Court Board, W1 (0171-580 8223) BELOW MIDDLE: Made in the Philippines, the five-hock daisy rack in painted metal; £14.96, from Plar and branches nationwide (0121-351 7100) BELOW RIGHT: The Arrow hook in lead-free pewter with shell, 229.95, from Knobs & Knockers; 55† Kings Road; SW6 (017) 384 2884; for a brockers; call 01256 773012)









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'Britain is the truer melting pot now'

Continued from page 1

tackled it. I found the perfect blues club in the Village — all black, no sweat it seemed, no problem. I helicoptered between the skyscrapers feeling like Dan Dare — part of the future. I went to Bloomingdales with a wad and nearly sickened myself trying to spent it all on presents to be shipped back home as if I had become part of Marshall Aid. Bookshops were open up to midnight and, after that, you could go to a bar and get a beer. Closing time in England then — lOpm. This was indeed the Promised Land.

Of course, I was in a very privileged position. Harry Salaman had liked the Debussy relevision script I had done for Ken Russell and took me on to write screenplays. I saw none of the destitution. I did not go to the South. My trip took me nowhere near the grind of the industrial north and yet I would contend that my first experience was not unlike others of my generation and their first trip to the land which had so successfully pitched for their young imaginations.

hat legitimises my euphoria in retrospect is that America was then the place where so many liberating ideas and liberating movements were taking off - in race with Martin Luther King, in young politics it seemed with JFK. Scholars, scientists. artists of all kinds were pulled across the Atlantic by the centrifugal force of the new order, new world. It sang the Freedom song and the times were a changing.

But when finally I got to Hollywood. 7.000 miles from Joe's picture house in Wigton, I lasted only a few weeks. The offer of a scriptwriting contract did not appeal. Perhaps I was homesick; perhaps I was daunted by it all. My more heroic explanation to myself was that I hated the authoritarian set up. The screenplay was first stop in the movie business, but the

writer paid for this pole position by being trampled on by everyone at all times. Butthat was my fault, I thought, not the fault of America, which fulfilled all its childhood promises until it hit the buffers in Vietnam in that same decade. Another America, an uglier, more destructive Amcrica emerged. It had been there all the time, I am sure, but well overlaid by America's world view of itself promoted through the cinema. And, although it was a tribute to America that the students and

the intellectuals led the movement which helped stop the war, nevertheless the war itself unleashed the dark side of the dream. Paradise Lost, said Robert Lowell,

was the first American poem.
Yet throughout the 1970s, as Britain reeled from loss of Empire, loss of direction, loss of control in so many areas of life, the lure of the dollar and the land of opportunities still drew us. And there was a sense in which my generation could not yet really blame America - however much we railed against Cambodia, napalm. South American dictatorships and



Cowboy heroes inspired the young

taken on America's wounds as tenderly as its aspirations. But when in the 1980s we were lectured through the movies and through the new triumphalist commentators that "greed was good" and "greed is everything", it was time to say "that's not us". Greed replaced public service as the ethos. The very words "public service". became a despised aside.

It was in that time that the traditions and virtues of Britain, coming out of its dark, post-imperial night of the soul,

reasserted themselves. There is still great decency here and a tolerance above that of America, I think, and of most other countries. The racial divisions in Britain, for instance, are and next Sunday at 10,45pm.

chasmic and perilous. Those who know both countries say that we are the truer melting pot now. Continuities, although parodied by the smear of "theme park", matter to enough British people to stabilise society and reach back into what so many have struggled for.

not the layered and rather subversive feeling of richness I feel in London, a feeling with which I am so familiar that it ought to have dulled. It has not. New York has: The same tired, monstrous sandwiches are served in the same delicatessen in the

America injected us with the urgency of

the present. But now in New York there is

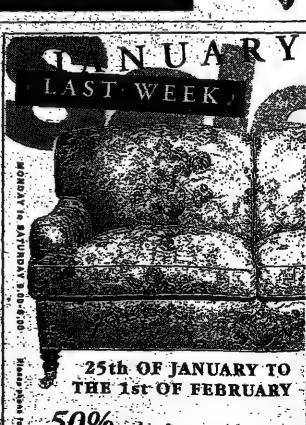
same abrasive manner, but the zip has gone. Our own energies - confused, crushed and chastened over the last half century - are reasserting themselves, and the force is here.

I think this country is remarkable in having survived this century in such good shape. After two murderous world wars, a massive loss of wealth and life, the end of

Empire, a haemorrhaging of talent, a near implosion of industry, Britain ought, were it a human being, to be in intensive care. Instead, we are stronger than ever in many ways and the strengths come from our traditions. Our best future is not in following America's present but building on the best of our past. I suspect that my experience of America

is very like that of many of my generation - and held by those in power today. instead of the American metritocrat dream, we have been saddled with the suspect American corporate ethic.

Let me end where I began: with the movies. World mass-market movies are all American, partly because American trade agreements insist on favourable deals, country by country. In recent years: brilliant and thrilling though some of them are - they have shown a society whose values are violent, infamile and nihilistic. There is nothing there to nourish the dreams of a Colendge looking for a paradise on earth or a working man in Wigton looking for a new better beginning. It seems increasingly a foreign place well worth knowing and trading with and enjoying but no longer either the dream that draws us there or the spell that comes back to bind us. Perhaps in a quiet way it is time for us to make our own Declaration of Independence.



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Check your wardrobe wardrobe



ABOVE: Tartan stretch dress, £275. Pletn Sud, from Whistles, 12 St Christopher's Place, London W1 (0171-487 4484). Pale blue cardigan with cream fake-tur collar, £59, Kookal, 123 Kensington High Street, W8 (0171-937 4411). Pale blue tights, 25.99, Jonathon Aston and leading department stores nationwide (call 0116-286 2388 for stockists). Tan leather open-toe sandals, £125, from Russell & Bromley.

6903 for stockists)

branches nationwide (call 0171-629

Scottish fashion has never looked so appealing. Heath Brown gets smart for

urns Night gives me the perfect excuse to laud the heritage of Scottish fashion with its wealth of luxurious faories and designs.

Burns Night

Perennial highland favourites such as plush cashmeres, colourful Argyle patterns. Shetland knit-wear, tartans and tweeds are the ideal investment buys that are hard to date. Combine them with modern textures, fabrics and styles for a sleek feminine look. Knee-high Argyle socks can be worn with a cheeky kick pleat skirt and finished off with a seriously high pair of heels or a two-tone, slim, tailored trouser suit can be teamed with a check light cotton shirt.

Argyle, originally taken from the Argyle clan tartan, with its multicoloured diamond pattern, is widely seen on mass-produced socks, scarves and sweaters. It has been stylised with different colourways over the years to become one of the most familiar and best used basic designs. From Vivienne Westwood to Pringle, its appeal can reach the stylish middle-aged golfer and the fashion victim alike. Tartans and plaids are always

popular but tend to date a little easier. Versions of Black Watch and Siewari tartans were very 1980s while updated pastel variants can look cheap once out of vogue. The best are the signature checks based on plaid by traditional British fashion labels such as Burberrys (left), Mulberry (top right) and Aquascutum. These are dependable classics that can be worn for years.

The greatest of Scottish fabrics is tweed. Not, as sometimes thought, named after its association with the River Tweed (on whose banks it was indeed made) but from the

ABOVE: Dark green jacket, £265, matching trousers £140, Paul Smith, 40 Floral Street, WC2 (0171-379 7133). Selfindges, W1 Tartan check shirt, £75; leather bag. £165. Mulberry, 41 New Bond Street W1 (0171-491 3900)

LEFT: Beige and cream Argyla wool sweater, £85, Pringle, branches nationvide (01450 360259) Beige kick pleat skirt, £54. Jigsaw, 126-127 New Bond Street. W1 (0171-491 4484)

Photographs by Richard Burns Hair and make-up by Sally Kvalheim Styling by Amandip Uppai Dummy by Stockman London 9 Dallington Street, EC1 (0171-251 6943)

seen in our shops are about as Scots in origin as a cappuccino. The influence on international clothes labels from Scotland is surprisingly strong. But the real McCoy from its homeland cannot be beaten. No one can reproduce better tweeds or more luxurious Argyle knits than the Scots.

So celebrate the authentic textiles of Scotland by investing in one of the timeless classics. It will be money well spent.



Scottish pronunciation of twill -"tweel" - tweed. Slightly rough in texture, this closely woven textile is hardwearing and smart. Designers worldwide are constantly scouring the weaving sheds of the Hebrides for new designs and unusual combinations. Christian Lacroix and Vivienne Westwood never produce a show without wonderfully extravagant tweeds. But beware of imitations. It is

ironic that many "Scottish" designs

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with items of clothing that are superior in quality, value and style. We use the finest fabrics and workmanship the world can offer and our attention to detail is impeccable. Because we deal

direct we keep our overheads low, passing the benefit on to you in the form of affordable prices. To make the value even better, as a special introductory offer. I have deducted 10% from the current catalogue prices.

Featured here are some of the many items contained in our Women's Classics catalogue. The traditional 'golfer' cardigan made from the finest two-ply Scottish Cashmere

Shown with a stunning wrap skirt in Liberty pure wool challis, it is one of the many co-ordinated outfits on offer to you.

The stylish, patchwork print dress in rich colours is extremely elegant and flattering to wear. Also in warm colours, is our pure wool jersey. It features an original poppy design on the front and back and the intricate stitch-work throughout is just one example of the attention to detail on which we insist.

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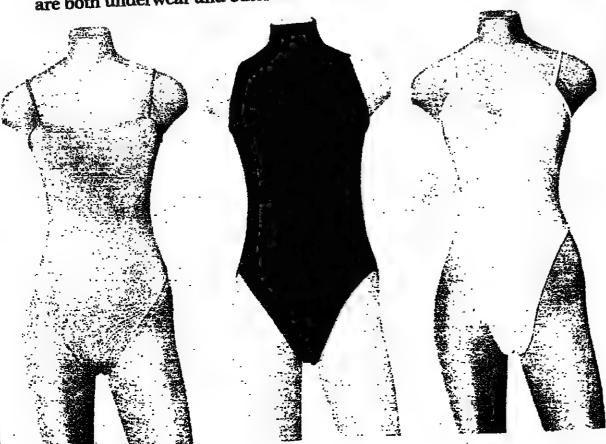
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If you do not wish to receive direct mail from other carefully selected companies, please let us know.



ABOVE: Dark blue stretch shirt, £26.99 from Jeffrey Rogers, branches nationwide (0171-208 4300). Beige check trousers, £95. Burberrys, 18-22 The Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 3343)

How did women get by before the all-in-one body? It has quickly become an essential for every modern woman. The selection is vast with styles that are both underwear and outerwear. Here are my favourites H.B.



Chocolate fine-ribbed body, £99, Fogal, 3a Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-493 0900); Lime green jersey body with spaghetti straps, £375, from Glorgio Armani, 37 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-235 6232) Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1

Vanilla terot body, £19.50, by Chamos, at major department stores nationwide (0115 9322191 for stockists)



The newly restored Italian garden at Heligan in Cornwall

Where boots are made for walking

OPEN THIS WEEKEND

■ Wimpole Hall, Arrington, near Royston, Hertfordshire (01223 207257).

Ten miles southwest of Cambridge on the A603, eight miles north of Royston on the Al4. Open Wed. Sat, Sun 10am-4pm. E2, children free. The park and woodland are open daily at no charge.

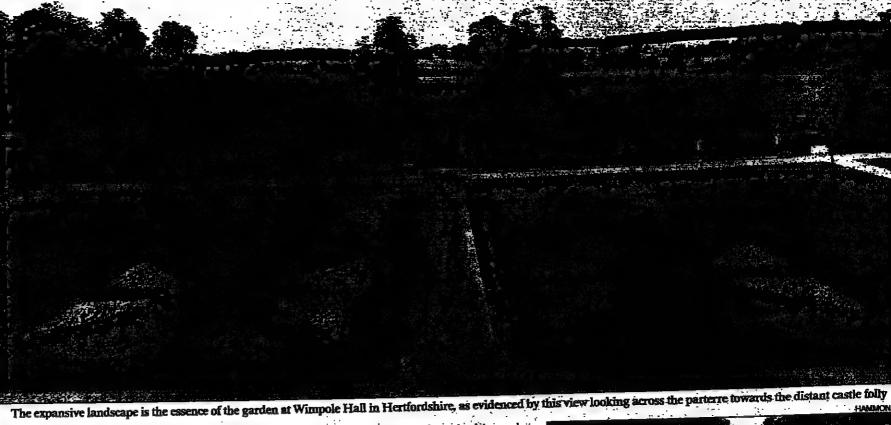
Wimpole is a repository of gardening history, dating from the 17th century when the great house was built for Sir Thomas Chicheley, before being enlarged and embellished for successive owners by leading architects including Gibbs, Flitteroft and Soane.

The sense of expansive landscape at this time of year can be overwhelming, and it was this enormous scale which inspired some of Wimpole's most impres-

sive garden and landscape fea-tures, such as the magnificent twoand-a-quarter mile south avenue, originally planted with elms by Charles Bridgeman. These were replaced with limes (grown from grafts of trees planted in the park by Bridgeman) by the National Trust in the 1980s after Dutch elm disease had killed the originals.

Bridgeman's north avenue was naturalised into clumps by Capab-ility Brown, whose alterations included building the sham castle folly, originally designed by Sanderson Miller.

Visitors are advised to allow themselves a couple of hours - and to wear comfortable walking boots to explore the entrancing series of walks through park and wood-land and to appreciate the work by the NT to preserve and restore this outstanding landscape.



■ Brobury House Gardens, Brobury, Herefordshire (01981 500229).

About 11 miles west of Hereford, off the A438 at Bredwardine Bridge. Open all year Mon-Sat, 9am-4pm (winter). £2, children £1.

Overlooking the Wye valley. Brobury enjoys a superb setting and looks across the river to the vicarage of Bredwardine, occupied for some years by the diarist Francis Kilvert. Much of the garden dates from the Victorian period, when the house was built, and there are fine trees, such as the trio of cedars that dominate the lawn to one side.

As well as formal terraces and pools, including a canal with a statue of Neptune at one end, there are interesting younger trees,

planted by the present owners, among which white-barked birthes are particularly striking at this time of year. Most interesting among the trees, however, is a venerable oak that pre-dates the house by centuries, just one of the many discoveries here.

Heligan, Pentewan, St Austell, Cornwall (01726 844157).

Take the B3273 to Mevagissey from St Austell. Open daily all year, 10am-4.30pm (last tickets in winter 3.30pm). £3.40, children £2, concessions £2.90.

Heligan has acquired such a reputation since its restoration was begun in 1991 that a visit during winter can be particularly rewarding for the relative peace compared to a busy summer day. Also at this

Pocket size remote control

no getting out to open or close doors in bad weather.

Manufactured and installed

time of year, the scale of the garden
— which extends to nearly 60 acres and was decaying quietly for a century until the restoration began — can be best appreciated. The restored Georgian walled gardens and fascinating range of buildings, such as the banana and peach houses and melon pit, are shown off without the summer decoration of plants and, similarly, the selection of magnificent rare conifers are presented in the most striking fashion when the surrounding

trees are without leaf. For many visitors it is the energy of the restoration work, combining with the individual features of this garden of historic importance and the exciting atmosphere of nature contained but not controlled; that leaves the most lasting impression.

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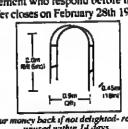


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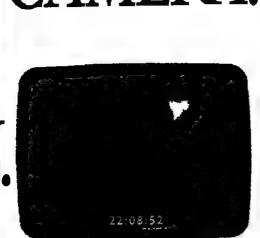
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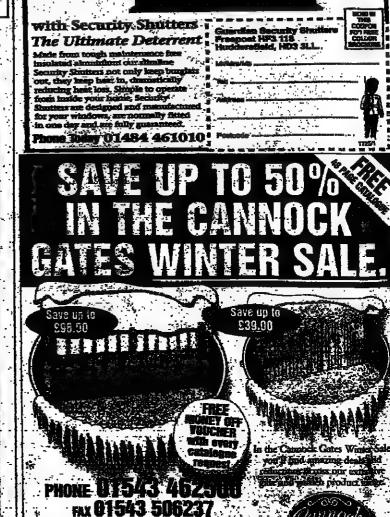
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ting T10997 for a PREE Cannock Cases Sale p ling our full 48 page catalogue stuffed full of ga and great gardening ideas at bargain prices.

Natural route to more privacy

One of the most attractive ways to screen a garden is to train an espatiered tree or pleached hedge, says Stephen Anderton

garden, something to

sometimes an espatient neer of a pleasure being a hedge of shirt. It is easy to think of hedges as great fat things, whose tops get so wide you can hardly reach across to clip them. It need not be so, you can make a hedge as that as you like with careful chipping pleasure unit is formative years.

Suppose you have 2 garden wall the high and want another the of screening above. If the foundations were strong enough you could, at great cost, add on another the of wall. Or you could plant a hedge beside it trained for have clean trunks for the lesses the former and the hedge proper above from heam and beech make perfect subjects for this, because they have clean grey trunks which add not produce suckers, and they hold their brown leaves all water to upper for beech, mid-beging for hornbeam.

The trees should be planted 12 in loin from the wall, because over the years the marks will develop a

years the minks will develop a. considerable girth. There must be room for these to develop attractive. ly. If the frunks are clean and straight, they make a stylish, formal feature marching along the wall, but if they are squeezed against the wall they look uncomfortable. At lft from the wall the tendencies of the trunks to be drawn away to the light and buffered forward by wind are also more easily avoided.

How wide apart you set them is a matter of choice. About 18in-24in is normal for a beech nedge, but bare trunks at this proximity look rather manic. About 3ft-6ft is suitable for a stilted hedge, although it will take a on height there. Give it perhaps a couple of years longer to knit wear to settle in unpruned, before

together to from a screen at the top: cleaning off the small lower if you like the idea of far trucks; branches to your desired trunk



A formal, low, pleached lime hedge, showing the cut-off tops

then the wider the spacing the better. In hedges, the closer the trunks are set, the greater is the competition for food and moisture, and the trunks remain thinner except in the end trees, which have competition on one side only.

In a ground-level hedge, it is vital to get the foliage and twig structure dense at ground level before it is allowed to make height. When planting young beech and thorn, cut the young plants off at 9in high, while still at pencil thickness, to encourage bushiness low down.

n a stilted hedge things are different. Only a clean, straight trunk is needed at low level, and the urgency is to get the plants up to the foliage level so that they can start to do their job of making a screen. It is, therefore, worth buying taller plants, A 6ft-7ft feathered tree one with a central leader and short side branches all the way up its stem - has had low foliage in the nursery and made the energy to put

height. Its energies will now be where you need it, at the top.

How you train the branches at the top is a matter of choice. But for speed of cover it is worth training horizontal - "pleaching" them, as it is called. Strong side branches always try to grow upwards to the light, but if they are trained horizontally a dense low covering of twigs is ensured.

To train the branches, set up

stout posts at either end of the hedge of, say 4in by 4in wood, or metal angle iron. Intermediate posts at 6ft-8ft intervals will also be attach the branches to these.

This structure may not seem the sort of thing you want in a garden, but it is surprising how soon it becomes hidden in foliage. And after a few years, the wires and posts can be removed and just the canes left in place. If an even lighter screen is

concentrated on making growth

the side branches down to the

needed. Strong galvanised wires are then run across the posts, at 18in-24in height intervals, to which the developing side branches can be tied. For a more firm effect, tie long bamboo canes to the wires and

branches every year, leaving a clean, formal skeleton. Lime twigs are malleable and well suited to training. They can even be trained into archways and tunnels, and the best to use are the common time (T. europaea) or T.

platyphyllos 'Rubra', whose red twigs will glisten in the winter sun required, you might consider an espalier tree, of say lime (Tilia platyphyllos or euchlora). In this case the spacing is widened to 6ff-sft intervals. Instead of letting a before being pruned off in March. Training limes this way is not difficult. There are none of the twiggy hedge develop on the stilts, the twigs are pruned off the side

complications of pruning espalier fruit trees or bud wood. It only requires care to ensure that the formal framework is attractively grown. If there is one watchword in this, it is to ensure that the structure of posts and wires is strong enough to last, and to allow you to draw the wires tight enough to be straight.



The common lime (Tilia europaea) is malleable and well suited to training along a framework into attractive archways and tunnels

HOMES & GARDENS

WEEKEND TIPS

- Pot-up or replant hippeastrums in a soil-based compost, such
- as John Innes No 2, and keep fairly dry until growth starts. ■ Cut back ivy and creepers on house walls to the roof line.
- Remove weak or crossing growth from hybrid tex and floribunda roses, but leave the final pruning until later.
- Erect training wires on walls, using vine eyes and tensioners. Early broad beans can be sown in individual pots under glass for spring planting. Watch out for mice.

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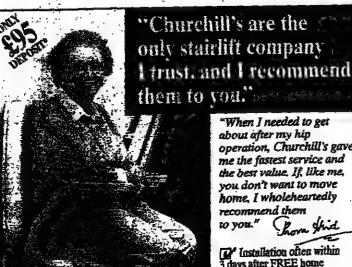
computer-controlled long before they expose ultrasound expels cats themselves to its full impact, so from lawns, flower beds, that it works where fences or netting fail. Fully automatic - no shrubberies, walls sensors to go wrong. Highly reliable, fully weatherproofed and patios Not miniature computer circuit.

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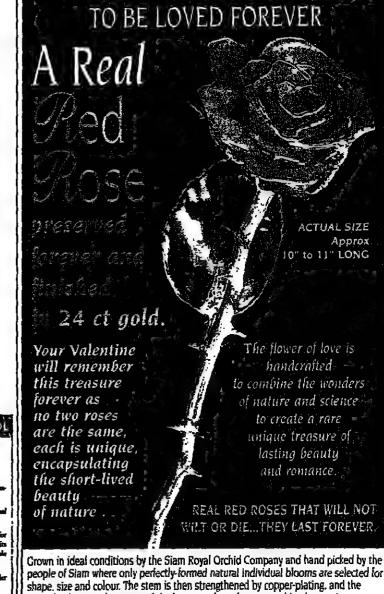
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GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON replies to readers' letters

Having reduced by two-thirds a robust

Lavatera 'Barnsley'. I read

with horror that they revert

to the common pink when

pruned severely. Is this

always the case? I had

planned to move it this

winter and wonder if it is

now worth doing? - K. Argnovic, London W4. A Lavateras are prolific flowering shrubs but must be pruned or they get

straggly. With or without pruning they are not long lived, up to five to six years. Snow, or cold usually finish

them off. The common

Lavatera olbia is insistently

purplish pink, and Barns-

ley (now thought to be a

hybrid) was one of the first

of the many softer-coloured

variations. It tends to revert.

with or without heavy prun-

ing, though the problem is

sometimes more common

after heavy pruning. So wait and see, and take some

cuttings next summer anyway, of a true branch, to

keep you going. As a gener-al rule, it is better to leave

the hard-pruning of sappy. short-lived shrubs until lat-

I have several pots of the succulent Cras-

sula portulacea and the

red-flowered Kalanchoë biossfeldiana. which regu-

larly produce new plants from fallen leaves. How do they do this? A. Challoner. Bodelwyd-

A These succulent plants come from dry condi-

tions where water is scarce.

So they store their own in

the leaves and can survive

long periods without water.

It is safer for a species to

rely on leaf knocked off by a

passing animal taking root than to wait for seed and

Readers should write to:

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rain to coincide.

dan, Denbighshire.

er in the spring.

Where can I find the 'Madame Speaker' rose? Our garden centre has not heard of it, and another said sales were restricted because it is a new rose. - Rev C. Earle.

There are two main sources for anyone having trouble finding a rose variety. One is the Royal National Rose Society ety, Chiswell Green, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL2 3NR (01727 850461). The other is a booklet called Find That Rose, produced yearly by the British Rose Growers' Association and available from the RNRS for £2.50, including p&p. 'Madame Speaker' hybrid tea rose, dark red and bordered with cream and vellow - is indeed new and will be available at 8&Q from this autumn.

Ware, Hertfordshire.

Last August I excavat-ed the sediment from a large garden pond and spread it over a wide area. It has dried out well. is friable, 2ft-3ft deep in places, and has a pH of between 6.5 and 7. It is surrounded and shaded by oaks, i would like to plant the area with rhododendrons and azaleas, but I am unsure when the sediment will be ready for planting. — F.J. Pervin. High Halden. Kent.

A Plant in March. Rho-dodendrons and azaleas will love that acid or neutral soil. Dredged silt from ponds with trees nearby usually has enough leaf and twig material in it to produce a coarse, open textured soil, despite the fine particles of the silt proper. By March the silt will have had ample chance to settle. Check the plants in autumn to see if irregular settlement has left them either too high or too low in the soil and adjust accordingly. Is the land under the silt area acidic? If not, worm action may bring alkaline soil up into the silt and raise the pH until it becomes unsuitable for rhododendrons. But that is many years away.

HOW TO GET RID OF A MOLE IN A HOLE

AFTER musical deterrents (Weekend, December 21, 1996). B. Young, of East Grinstead, West Sussex, writes to recommend pushing castor oil plant seeds into mole runs. having tried most other methods. Apparently the moles dislike either the smell or blundering into the sharp spikes on the seeds. I cannot help wondering if, on the contrary, they like the smell and eat these poisonous seeds. Anyone wishing to try this will find that, in the south at least, you can grow the flower seed of Ricinus communis, the castor oil plant, a tender shrub widely used as a bedding plant.

AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER ----

With the huge Witley Court fountains being restored, Jane Owen investigates back-garden models



Barbara Davies of Stapeley Water Gardens, Cheshire, which sells this huge bronze fish gusher at £4,000 along with modest equipment, such as pebbled water features, for small gardens

Make a splash this summer

he Fountain Society has designated the year 2000 as the Year of the Fountain and. in honour of this, English Heritage is restoring the fountains at Witley Court, near Stourport-upon-Severn in Worcestershire. For scale alone, they deserve to be awareness.

Their renaissance will give an idea of Witley's glory days, when the Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) was a regular guest. His host, the Earl of Dudley, asked the artist-landscaper William Nesfield to create gardens that would

impress. They did and do. The Poseidon fountain. which is almost shocking in its size — 8m (about 25ft) above the pool - is made in part from one of the largest mono-

mantic it would be.

lithic sculptures in Europe and THE SEE TIMES

panel above some trellis. Clouds would cause the solar panel to jerk the water up and down. Walk past the panel and the fountain would momentarily stop. It was ex-pensive, too, at £230, but it had the advantage of being able to work far away from any

Paxton at Chatsworth in Derbyshire or Nesfield at Witley, you are able to build lakes to create gravity-fed water spouts, you will have to make do with an electric pump.

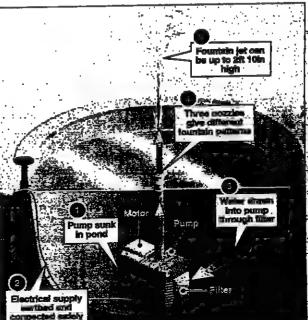
the fountain reached 150ft. The Flora fountain is having to be recreated from scratch from a piece of limestone so vast that a quarry had to be closed for

two days to blast it out. Luckily, few of us are likely to face such problems when we want a water feature to enhance the baimy days of for the sound and sparkle of moving water, I bought a and solar-powered pump from the local garden centre. How green, how ro-

Pump and nozzie went straight into the pond and a pleasing spout rose about 18in. Not in the Witley league, but the fountain had an excellence all of its own - until the sun moved. By the end of the day, the only way I could get the fountain to work was by standing between a row of broad beans and one of spinach, glass of sherry between my teeth, holding the solar

electric power point. So unless, like Joseph

For my lesson in these things I turned to Barbara Davies, of Stapeley Water Gardens, near Nantwich, in



How the Little Diamond model produces its fountain

Cheshire, which made an i8acre butyl liner for a lake to power the fountain at Castle Howard in North Yorkshire.

ness is usually from more modest equipment pebble water features which are designed for small spaces inhabited by children (add water and plug in) and DIY fountains which can be assembled in about 15 minutes - assuming you have an outside power supply.

For beginners, the best bet, and a popular product, is the Little Diamond pump kit, which comes with three interchangeable fountain heads

(ball jet, single-tier spray ring, and three-tier spray ring), a pump and 10m of cable. It costs about £50. Or you could buy one of last year's models,

with 3m of cable for £35...

The cable from the power point to the pump needs to be hidden under plants around the pond or trenched into the ground: the latter method is safe because the kit comes with a circuit breaker, and an armoured cable should anyone attack it with a spade. The - cable, already fixed to the pump, drops into the pond and, when the spout has been wedged into position, the power can be turned on: As the

dislike those that come with the kit, most garden centres stock others — straight jet, spray jet, bubbly and multijet. Fish and aquatic plants coedst with the Little Diamond Spart from water lilies and other sensitive plants which

drown when splashed. Depending on how mucky may have to be cleaned any thing from every day to every week. A second, larger filter. costing 19.99, reduces the need to clean it so often. The larger pumps have better filters which usually reduce cleaning: debris-eating bacteris in filter and chomp through some of the muck. These cost from £25 to £200.

For those who aspire to scaled down. Witley water splendour, garden centres and specialist water nurseries have statues and figures in stone, reconstituted stone, terracotta or cement designed to spoot water. But for small spaces, wall-mounted, self-contained fountains are handy. Stape ley's fake some 30in high lion mask fountain and trough costs 111299, including the

If this does not satisfy your hunger for something magnificent for the millennium, move to somewhere with rolling acres and employ a fountain maker, who can be traced through the Fountain Society. On top of making a pretty. vast, impressive sculpture through which water will shoot into the air, he or she will calculate the pump size



FACT FILE

To Garden fountain cialists and stockists Aylesbury, Bucks HP/7 &/D (01844 292002);

Lotus Water Garden Products, PO Box 36, Junction Street, Burnley, Lancashire 8B12 0NA (0)282 420771); Stapeley Water Gardens London Road, Stapeley, CW5 7LH (01270 623868) Wildwood Water Gardens Theobalds Park Road Crews Hill, Enfield,

Middleses EN2 9BP -(0181-366 0243). The Fountain Society, 16 Gayfere Street, Westminster, London SWIP 3FIP (0171-222-2917): membership £20 a year

Wittey Court (01299 of Worcester on A443; open Wednesdays to Sundays until March 22, 10am-1pm, 2-4pm, £2-50.

Weeds perish in deadly gun battle

water emerges it is shaped by

spring vegetable patch cov-Lered in a haze of tiny, thrusting weed seedlings and wish you could wipe them out without resorting to chemicals or the hard work and uncertainty of a hoe? If so, think about getting a flame gun.

These guns are ideal for burning off seedling weeds where there are no other plants nearby which might be damaged by the heat. A blast of flame is delivered from the end of a handheld lance and, if it is used while the weeds are still seedlings, a complete kill is achieved.

Flame guns can also be used on gravel paths and drives as an alternative to residual weedkillers. Now that several such weedkillers previously used have been banned, many local authorities are turning to flame and steam to control weeds on public areas and pavements.

For domestic use, there are two kinds of flame guns: the old-fashioned but splendidly powerful paraffin type, and

the cleaner, easier, gas-powered type. The paraffin type has been around for generations and works rather like a big blowlamp on a long handle. Paraffin is delivered under pressure to a nozzle and is first vapourised by

a tribute to America that the students and tribity tupidites, the currence that the

If chemicals are taboo and hoeing is hard, try a flame gun, says Stephen Anderton

passing through flame-heated coils of tubing. Consequently, the gun has to be primed, putting a burnrag soaked in meths into the coils first. It's a bit messy but once it's going it is a powerful tool.

gun's whoosh factor is decidedly useful and. if you want to burn off an area of rough grass which has already been killed by herbicides, the thrust of the paraffin flame will lift

the dead grass to burn it away down to

Paraffin guns are best for big areas, because once they are up and running. there is no on/off switch. If you stop it you have to prime it again to restart. for convenience and economy. The The paraffin-fuelled Sheen Flame gun's whoosh factor is good, but



Parasene Weed Wand, £35

trolley is available. for easy use on paths and drives. The OC Cata-Wand Cas Flame Gun, at £119.50, including peop. A lance is connected by a 7m (about 21ft) hose to a large gas cylinder (not supplied). The jet is ignited by a prior light, so the

burner can easily be burned on and off

£23.99. My experi-

also concentrates

the heat, and makes

parallin gun, particularly with a full foel tank. But then, after you have beened a patch within a 7m radius, the through the Organs ic Gardening Calabutane cylinder itself must be humped along to a new position. logue at £14950. If all this sounds like too much hard including pen Ap optional hood is work there is the lightweight Parasene Weed Wand, which has a small screwavailable for conin gas canister and can be held easily in fining the flame at

one hand. It is lit by a piezo electric spark and profinces a small flame ideally suited for spot treatment of weeds, or cleaning cracks in paving.

The gun's who sall factor is negligible but a stall flat to considerable. ence is that a hood the gun more effective in windy wear ther & wheeled ble but a still dry day considerably

garaffin gun. The lance weighs only kg (66b), making it lighter than a

increases efficiency.
The Weed Wand is made by M.H. Berlyn and is available from partien centres, big multiples, or hardware stores, allower 135. The makes expert to biunch a targer, semi-professional model later in the year at about 175. with static or trolleyed gas cylinder, 2m

gas hose and piezn ignition. Organic Gardening Catalogus Coombelands House, Addiestons KT15 HTY (01932 820958) Parasene, M.H. Bertyn, Dudley Road, Halesowae, West Midkonds B63 3LR M21-550 1951 for stockists)

- CHANGING TIMES

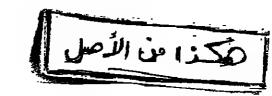
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gun battle



Ideal homes at the press of a button

ing to computers to give customers a "real" picture of how their new carpet, kitchen or bathroom could look when in place. Wallcoverings, and even participated with some an extraction packages being developed and tested.

The new images produced are a far try from the computer-generated sketches or floor plans that some refailers in the litthens.

some retailers in the kitchens some retailers in the kitchens market have been using for a decade of more. Computers can now produce photo-quality colour pictures of fittings and superimpose them on to a photograph of a room. For example, 'Allied Carpets' HomeVision service allows you to see on-screen how various different floor coverings would look if they were laid in particular rooms. At the push of a few buttons, the system can show a photo-image of a typical room, 'selected from a library of shots, and roll out your

library of shots, and roll out your chosen carpet in that setting. If you don't like the look of it, you can choose another carpet (or another room) and repeat the process until

you are happy Sales staff can also prompt the system to select floor coverings which fit your requirements: for example, green bedroom carpet with a small pattern. In all cases, the image you see includes texture and shadow effects. You can also change the lighting conditions to match those in your home.

If you want to take the process a step further you can have photographs of your rooms installed on: he computer system. You can then view the carpets in their "real" setting. This service from HomeVision costs £75, refunded if you buy a floor covering.

HomeVision was launched last August in Guildford, Surrey, and is installed in 12 stores in the south-east of England. Allied Carpets is planning to go national with the

service this year.
You are also likely to see similar
systems in DIY stores by the end of
the year, systems which allow you to paint the walls or hang wallpa-per on-screen. Interactive Colour Solutions, which developed the HomeVision system, is working with various annufacturers to

How would the sitting room look

in yellow? Or peach perhaps? There are ways of

finding out . . .

produce a computer package that gives on screen viewing of every-thing from doorknobs to paint in

room settings.

Meanwhile, Crown Wallcoverings has completed trials of Wallpaper Wizard, a touch-screen computer system that allows you to visualise all types of wallcoverings, from textured wallpaper to paint, in

a range of home settings.

DIY chains, including Home-base, B&Q, Do It All and Fads, were involved in computer trials for most of last year and are now evaluating the results. Depending on their vertict, Wallpaper Wizard could eventually be installed in up to 300 DIY stores, says John Lawrence, the new-business manager at Crown Walkoverings.

s well as dealing with walls and floors, photoquality computer images are being used by retailers to show how fitted furniture will look when it is in place. A photorealism system called Planit, developed by ICADS, can be used to design kitchens, bedrooms, bathrooms, living rooms and conservatories. About 1,000 copies of the system have been installed by independent retailers, chiefly as an aid to kitchen design. It is also used by leading retail groups, such as lkea, John Lewis, Wickes and MFI.

Planit can design a kitchen within minutes, using the retailer's

stocked range of units. The initial drawings are of draft quality, which allows the system to work fast — changing selections at the click of a button. Planit will also add up the cost of the furniture and produce an itemised quote. And, once you're happy with the draft picture and price, the system will







Mike Hardman, of ICADS, demonstrates computer-aided home design. Right, computer print-outs from HomeVision showing different floor coverings in the same morn

re-draw the image using photorealism, producing an image that can be printed out for reference.

Of course, photo-quality images, although impressive, are simply a fast, effective advancement on the artist's impression". They're useful but, in terms of three-dimensional design, it is virtual reality that is at the cutting edge of computer-aided planning, because it allows you to "walk through" a room and to get a feel for how the whole thing works.

This is important in kitchen design, where the relative positioning of units and appliances is the

key," says Mike Hardman, of ICADS, who has been involved in developing a virtual-reality kitchen and bathroom design package. The system lets you "explore" a room, viewing it from any angle, opening cupboards, even lighting the oven or filling the bath. The image is of draft quality but ICADS expects to launch an improved version later this year.

Computer virtual reality has also been developed by the specialist software company M'n'G Designs, which has just launched an addition to its existing Superlast Plus programme - a design package

used by more than 1,000 high street stores and kitchen suppliers throughout Britain. Using draftquality images, the programme allows the viewer to interact with the design. "Virtual reality lets you see what the designer has in mind." says Maurice Green, the managing director of M'n'G Designs. "For example, you can open drawers and doors to make sure nothing in

the house clashes." As for the future, virtual reality and photo-realism are likely to gain popularity, and the trend won't stop with interior design. In America, retailers already use computer

systems to show realistic images of patios, driveways and exteriors. Phil Toyne, of Interactive Colour Solutions, expects the trend to

continue in Britain, with garden centres and builders' merchants installing systems within the year. Inside or out, the use of computers for design tasks using specific products is just the starting point. I can see a time when these systems will be used to design and decorate a customer's entire house.

room by room," says John Law-rence, of Crown Wallcoverings. DAWN SMITH

FACT FILE

Home Vision, contact Allied Carpets on 01689 895000. ■ Retailers using Planit by ICADS (01233 635844) include Group, MFI and Wickes.

Superfast Plus by M'n'G
Designs (0161-477 0700) is used by
small high street retailer. Walipaper Wizard by Crown Wallcoverings (01254 870700) has been tested in Do It All. Homebase, B&Q and Fads.

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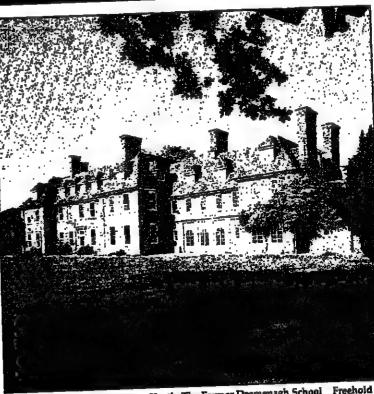


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Countrymen, lend me your house

Renting rural properties is one of the fastest-growing sectors of the

The whole property market seems to be putting its green wellies on. It's only January but already country rentals have emerged as one of the fastest growing sectors of the housing market.

housing market

Penny Parr-Head of Hamptons International estimates that the rural rental market is experiencing a boom greater than that of the London

equivalent.
The main reason is that the number of people looking to rent doubled between 1995 and 1996, while the number of new properties coming onto the market fell by 28 per cent. Children are usually one of

the biggest factors in enticing people out of the cities. Many would-be rural renters feel that the country provides access to better schools as well as more space and a better qual-ity of life for their young ones. Barbara Blanchard, of John

D, Wood's country rental department, confirms this. Typical clients looking for a country rental are a young professional couple with children," she says. "They have done the whole London thing and have decided that it is time to move to the country.

For Mark and Julia Shirley. who have three children -Max, six, Amelia, three, and Milo, one — this was instru-mental in their decision to sell their house in Balham, south London and move to a fivebedroom house on an estate near Winchester.

Mr Shirley says: "Now we can let the children play outside and we know that they will be safe - that's something we would never have dreamt of doing in London.

However, Mr Shirley was quick to discover the most obvious disadvantage of moving to the country. Facing a 90minute journey morning and evening to his job in the City. he admits: "In the summer it is fine, but in the winter it can be dreadful. I leave at 6-30am and get home at 7.30pm. It is dark when I set off and dark when I get home."

The Shirleys decided to rent in the country as a stop-gap while looking for the right house to buy, and they are not alone. Hamptons estimates that 36 per cent of its applicants have turned to the rental market as a temporary alternative to buying.

For those looking to buy outside the capital, prices are expected to rise by 10 per cent in 1997. This prediction comes from Simon Agace, the chairman of the London agent Winkworth, the only property expert to accurately predict the



Mark and Julia Shirley with their children outside their rented house. "We can let the children play outside, something we would never have dreamt of doing in London".

extent of the boom in property in 1996. Mr Agace compares the 10 per cent price rise in the country with only a 7 per cent increase for central London.

The lack of good properties seems to be the main reason. Strutt & Parker in Lewes has more than 1.000 prospective purchasers competing for ten houses in the £250,000 range. Naturally, the few houses available are selling for sums well above the guide price.

ut the buying market in the country is also limited because often the most desirable rural properties - farmhouses, stables and old staff cottages - are on country estates. Landowners are reluctant to sell these properties, preferring to rent them instead, so keeping their estates

in one piece. Ms Parr-Head of Hamptons says: "As people turn to rentals ever-increasing numbers.

the result is an enormous strain on the available rental property. Inevitably we will see more rent increases, frustrated applicants, gazumping and landlords becoming evermore choosy about who they

accept as tenants," Surprisingly. weekenders" form only a very small part of the picture. dwellers in search of a second home in which to while away their for only 6 per cent of all applicants. According to Ms Bianchard of John

D. Wood, these

part-time country folk invariably insist that a gardener and housekeeper be included in the rental.

Company lets for overseas staff form the only other major part of the country rentals market, making up 32 per cent of all applicants. Companies

have finally realised the advantages of locating their staff outside the big cities, hoping that the quality of life in the country will produce better results from executives.

Nor are companies entirely blind to the comparatively lower Children costs of country lets when compared to equivalent properare a big ties in London. For tactor in tons is offering Byways. a modern luring village house built in traditional stone people out just outside the village of Painswick of cities in the Cotswolds. The house has four

> bedrooms and the rent is £1,200 per month. At the same rent, and also in Gloucestershire, is the Old Granary in Brimpsfield, a conversion with four bedrooms and two bathrooms. Those looking for a less

demanding commute to the

pretty period cottage in Kingwood Common available through Hamptons' Henley on Thames office in Oxfordshire. The cottage has three bedrooms, two bathrooms and sizeable gardens. Fortunately for the rejuctant horticulturist, the £1,500 per month rent

capital might be interested in a

the country, there are a number of essential requirements that prospective tenants look for in a property. Proximity to a station for the journey to work and access to good schools are both top of the rentals list. Not surprisingly, a lack of

traffic noise is considered essential as well by most country tenants. Luckily, this is not something that worries the Shirleys, whose house is situated at the end of a mile-long private drive.

If a property does not quite meet a tenant's requirements, then changes can be made. There might be little point in landscaping the garden if your lease is only for 12 months, but by "amortising" the cost you can get a proper return on long or short your stay in the

Essentially, amortising means devising a scale of depreciation for the asset — for example, an Aga - added by the tenant. If the tenant moves out before the the Aga has depreciated to zero value, they can obtain a refund on some of their original outlay from thelandlord because they will be. the one to benefit from the

improvement to the property. Now it seems that everyone wants their own little piece of our ever-dwindling English countryside.

As the exodus from our gathers momentum in 1997, the obstacles facing those in search of a rural idyll are ADAM BARKER

John D. Wood Country Rentals, 01256 398004. Hampio Country Rentals, 0171-834 2312. Strutt & Parker, Lewes,

becoming more substantial.

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SELLING POINTS CONSERVATORIES



A conservatory adds value to a house, provided it blends in well and is properly built

Three bedrooms, two reception rooms, kitchen, bathroom, gas central heating and ... a conservatory. Just one extra room but enough to give a hint of gracious living to your house's otherwise prosaic

As property accessories, conservatories are pretty hot. They are just for relaxing with a gin fizz surrounded by potted palms or indulging horticultural fantasies, tending bougainvillea and passion flowers while the rain drips outside and the temperature drops.

On a more practical note, a conservatory can be a valuable additional and adaptable space. Provided it is well built, it can boost the value of a house. And in smaller houses, where it adds significantly more space, you may more than recoup your investment,

Conservatories have come a long way since the days of sun lounges that were often just glorified sheds with plastic roofs, tacked on to the back of a house. But with the range of styles now available, from Regency swirls to Victorian gothic, do not expect to impress potential housebuyers if your conservatory is little more than a covered space for the family wellies.

Today's homeowner wants a conservatory that is light, spacious, heated and doubled glazed to allow year-round use. Prospective housebuyers viewing in the depths of winter are not going to be sold on your garden room if they are hit by a glacial chill and the sight of frostblackened plants. Nor will they be struck by its charms on a summer day if lack of ventilation

and shade has recreated Saharan conditions

that leaves them gasping for air.

Even if your conservatory is not quite on the scale of Crystal Palace, you will want to show off its space and adaptability, and not have buyers tripping over abandoned bicycles and garden chairs. You may be using it as a children's play and general purposes room, but prospective buyers may have visions of candlelit dining while gazing out on the garden or of using it as a studio or office space.

Glassing in a roof terrace or perhaps: enlarging a basement kitchen by adding a small conservatory-style extension adds a distinctive touch to town houses. A conservatory may also be a solution where extra space is needed but more substantial structural changes to the house are not possible.

t is important to make sure a conscivatory blends with the house. Avoid the temptation of gothic fantasies complete with fussy finials, crests and roof lanterns if your house has a modern, no-nonsense look to it.

Prices start from about £5,000 for doubleglazed conservatories with PVC frames, while timber-framed rooms start from about #6,000-E7,000. Planning permission is not always necessary, depending on the size of the conservatory, its location and what other additions may have been made to the house. On average, construction time is about 1-2 weeks.

CLARE STEWART

NEWS

PROPERTY

HAZEL HOLT. in Bishop's Waltham, Hampshire is for sale. On May 23, 1892, The Times described the late Victorian house as "a favourable opportunity of securing a gentleman's residence of moderate size. The house is approached by an exceedingly pretty drive, with a lodge and particu-larly good and productive old grounds and walled gardens, maintained by one man and assistant." Now the estate and six-bedroom house with 49 acres are available as two lots costing £500,000 and £125,000 each. For more information, contact Knight Frank, 0171-629 8171 or Ian Judd and Partners, 01489 896422.

PRIME London residential rental values rose by 8.7 per cent for houses and 7.7 per cent for flats on average last year, says Savilis. The highest rises were in Holland Park Notting Hill and Kensington, with in-creases of 15 per cent for houses and 13 per cent for flats. Values rose by 5-6 per cent in Hampstead, Knightsbridge and areas of Docklands.

THE PEAK Cavern, a imestone cave with a 100ft wide entrance in Castleton, Derbyshire is to let through Smiths Gore. Owned by the Duchy of Lancaster, it was dubbed one of the 'mervels of England" in the 12th century by Henry of Huntingdon. The Duchy hopes tenants will attract a wider audience than the 28,000 who visit each summer. Price to be negotiated. For more information, ring 01904 655894.

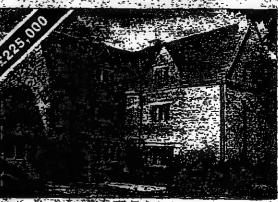
■ HOUSE sales will continue to increase this year_according to the Corporate Estate Agents property index. The number of sales in 1996 was up 15.3 per cent on the previous year, with sales in the fourth quarter of last year 20.6 per cent higher than the same period in 1995, while the number of contracts exchanged rose by 29 per cent.

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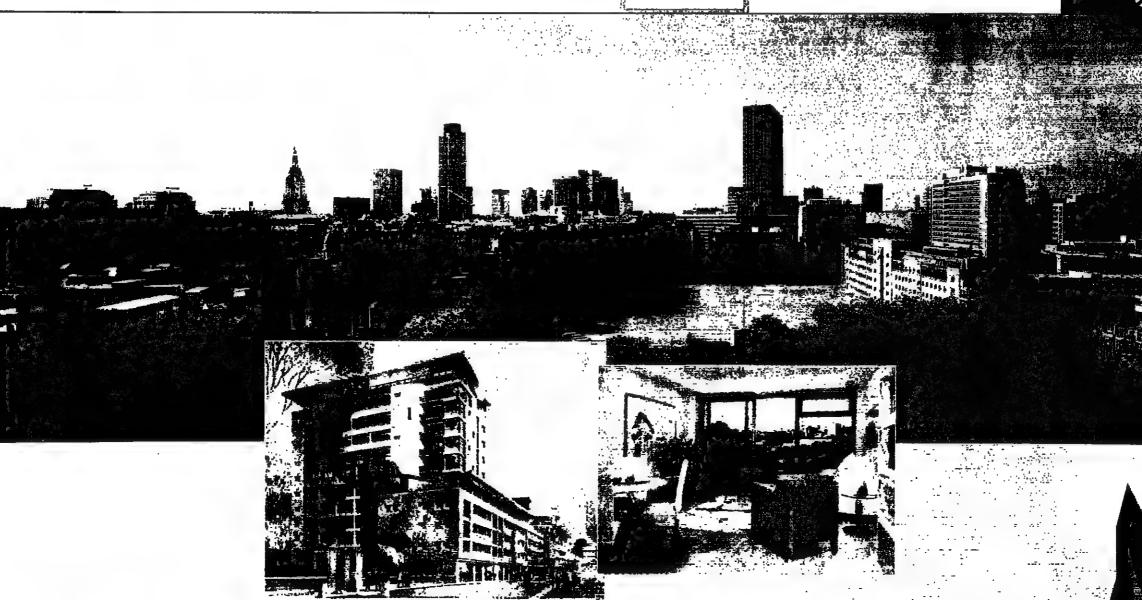
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HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Holmwood House, King Street, Emsworth, Hants

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just the sort of place where you expect bearded types wearing Guernsey sweaters to use salty language and break into sea shanties. So it comes as neither a surprise that a retired Admiral is selling his Georgian property (previous occupants have included a Vice-Admiral and a Rear-Admiral) nor that he likes Emsworth so

Nautical but nice:

the same street.

Admiral Sir Richard Thomas. former Black Rod and retired seaman, stood outside the back

much that he is moving into a

smaller property 50 yards away in

leaving will be as poignant as relinquishing command of a boat. From the ship's bell outside the back door to his Black Rod costume hanging in the hall, one has a

strong sense of the man, naval and political. "Looking after a house is like keeping a ship in order," he says. "You have to have a proper

visual reference to his distinguished career - for the house is scattered with maritime and political memorabilia - is the kitchen. This exceeds even the usual estate agent superlatives for descriptions of size, given that it is about as large as my London flat. It is one of those sunny rooms with a huge fireplace above, sweeps around in one-and-a-half revolutions to form a gallery The front of Holmwood

The graceful staircase.

House, left, which has been extended from the original 17th-century farmhouse

and comfy chairs that you are loath to leave, and the family spend much of their time here. The kitchen table seats 14 comfortably and a large walk-in larder suggests that provisions for a crew of greedy people could be adequately stored A short passage leads to the hall

where it is immediately clear why the estate agent prefers people to enter the house from the front. A graceful staircase sweeps around in one and a half revolutions to form

a gallery. Off the hall, hung with seascapes, is the drawing room-which is nearly 30ft long. The proportions of this room and the hall, which date from the mid-19th century, seem vast in companison to the much smaller dining room, and study. These were added in 1740 to what was a 17th century.

Of the six bedrooms, the master bedroom and the main guest bed-room dominate. The remaining three on the first floor are all about the same size, except perhaps to the discerning eye of a jealous sibling. The nicest bedroom, in my opinion, is the attic one, with its sloping. walls and cupboards set in the eaves. It has a beautiful view over the garden to the mill pond. As the only room on this floor of would make a good, quiet study,

As the owner, I would keep the pavilion near the walled garden for my own use. An artist could stand their eased up in here looking out across the lawn at Dolphin Quay and the estuary, and in the winter they could light the fire

the water, is also attractive to visions. The wall at the end of the garden has been kept low to preserve the view, but behand it runs a public towpain.

Some may find the prespect of heads bobbing at the east of the garden too close for position. There

s compensation in the form hard tennis court on the where an exhibitionist tennis

Sir Richard decided to buy the house more than two decades ago over a bottle of wine with a friend We thought two families could live here; but when it was clear the house would be difficult to divide fairly, I went ahead of the other chap and put in a bid," he says with

He considers the house to have an "elastic" capacity. "We had two wedding receptions for my daugh ters last year and a 50th wedding auniversary celebration as well as numerous large family parties," he says. As the father of eight children, when he says the house has survived wonderfully he knows what he is talking about.

KATHERINE BERGEN



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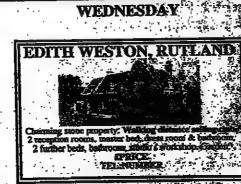


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Unless we are prepared to support our rural shops, the supermarket juggernaut will inevitably kill off our small market towns

bought the last jam tart that Mrs Runacles ever sold, which was a shame because it was also the first I had ever had from her. I opened the door of a tiny shop on the outskirts of a town not far from here, seeking refreshment after a long drive. All that was left in the window were two lonely jam tarts. I bought them both. On leaving the shop I noticed a scribbled sign on the door which said "Closing Down" and it gave that day's date. By the time I had eaten the tarts, the ovens of this tiny bakery

were cooling, never to be relit.

So what? Does it matter that an elderly lady no longer had either the energy or the profit motive to spoon her homemade raspberry jam into hand-crafted pastry cases and offer them for sale? Probably not. Life has gone on without her, no one starved, she is probably

enjoying her retirement.
We shall not see the likes of her again. The days when running a rural business meant little more than putting things in the window and expecting neighbours to beat a path to your door are long gone. This does not mean the village shop is

We must keep buying the jam tarts

wealthier communities who will fundraise to support a post office, community shop or whatever. But, by and large. shops out in the sticks have had it.

You can blame Government policy, planning laws, paperwork, oppressive health and safety regulations; but in the end it is the customer's choice where to shop. If we did not support that little shop, why should it support us? I cannot be the only one round here who felt a twinge of conscience at the thought that if we had bought a few more tarts from Mrs Runacles and a few less from Mr Kipling, her bakery might still be there, run by a new generation.

If you accept it is the fault of all of us in rural areas that we have so few village shops left, is it not time we decided what we really think about the next swipe at rural life before it is too late?

This time it is the future of small

which hangs in the balance. I live not far from a typical what is happening here will be no different to what is

A few years ago the Wednesday livestock market Farmers moved to the larger regional mar-

happening in a

kets. The site was sold for a small supermarket development. This, surprisingly, was not the disaster some people feared. The location put it at the heart of the town, so it maintained a flow of

DOWN TO EARTH



PAUL HEINEY

people down the high street. Only one general grocer ciosed as a result. and a butcher retired But half a dozen maders still gathered on Wednesdays for a modest street market. and even when the recession bit local businesses kept their heads just above water. So the butcher, baker,

watchmaker, wool shop, newsagent, ironmonger, builder's yard and Co-Op are still there. Now comes news of a housing development on the outskirts of the town. Good news or bad? It might

have been splendid news, were it not

application by Tesco to build a store there as well. Now, I like Tesco You can turn your nose up at supermarkets if you like, but I will not. They are warm, clean, well stocked, and you can park the car.

ompare this with the nearby high street where the council charges you to park, paints yellow lines where there need be none, hands out parking tickets, and generally ensures you get wet and cold trudging from shop to shop. You need to be a saint to support the average high street these days.

However, I do try to support it because somewhere in a rural life there must be somewhere to which you are drawn, to meet other people, to get the huzz. That is what I do in this market town. I buy a paper, drink a cup of coffee, buy a packet of seeds, get my watch fixed, larget to pick up the dry cleaning Four shops,

four people met, four "buzzes" acquired. Refreshed, 1 happily retreat to the solitary farmhouse life. Hundreds do what I do - usually on market day and have done for generations.

With a glossy attraction up the road, however, convenience will inevitably outweigh sociability, the shops will close and the town will go silent. Bad news in the long run for its people, and their children especially; for what will will any longer qualify thus place to be a town! If high street shops fold, tea shops and pubs will follow, windows will be boarded up, buses will not bother to stop. no one will put up the Christmas lights.

If you know a small town where this has happened and you have successfully overcome the creeping death. I know of a row of splendid shopkeepers who will soon be dying to know how you did it. At the moment I fear for their future. Not only for their own sakes, but because I do not much lane; an environment in which supermarkets not only have charge of our pockets, but our hearts and minds, too. Keep buying those jam tarts, or there will be none for lea tomorrow.

Thorny problem? Call in the flying ponies

If plants and wildlife are

threatened, the answer could be

grazing, says Christian Dymond

have returned to the Cornish cliffs near Padstow, so it must be the depths of winter. Transported from their normal habitat on a Dartmoor estate owned by the Duchy of Cornwall, they will spend the next three months chewing through the bramble and gorse within sniffing distance of the Atlantic.

The eight pure-bred ponies are there for one purpose: to act as a nature conservation tool on 60 acres of the Pentire Peninsula belonging to the National Trust. In spring, when they might eat the young plants the Trust wants to encourage, the ponies will return home, a job well done. Grazing animals have been

part of the landscape for thousands of years but the idea of using certain breeds of cattle, sheep, goats or ponies to safeguard species of wildlife is dictated by changes in agriculture since the war.

arly grazed so wildlife thrived as a matter of course. Where land subsequently went out of grazing and was not used for anything else, scrub tended to return. The only way to mainain the botanical and insect life was to start grazing again.

The Dartmoor ponies on the Pentire Peninsula are seen as the ideal animal for the purpose. They're hardy, able to cope with poorer ground, light enough not to do damage to the footpaths and good on their feet on the steep slopes," says Simon Ford, the National Trust's countryside manager

 $\langle v_{i+1}\rangle \propto 36$

for north Cornwall. They'll leave the heather but graze the more competitive species like bramble and blackthorn. This allows grassland species like sawwort. slender birdsfoot and trefoil to grow much more easily. The small pearl-bordered fritillary. small copper and green hairstreak butterflies are returning in numbers too. After seven years it has become clear that grazing has led to enormous benefits in terms of

the wildlife here," he adds. The National Trust manages 38 nature conservation grazing schemes in Cornwall where animals are selected by the Trust according to their suitability for the job. Hence

artmoor ponies 16 different breeds of sheep are used elsewhere at Pentire including Swaledale, Soay, Shetland and Jacob.

These sheep - light on their feet and suited to the weather - graze the maritime grassland, creating short grass which should be rich in flowers. There is also an important iron age castle here, called the Rumps, which heavier animals could damage.

Sometimes troubleshooting sheep are brought in for only a month and then moved to other sites. One "flying flock" of 200, including Hebrideans and Shetlands, is employed by the Norfolk Wildlife Trust to clear coarse vegetation so that finer grasses, heather and wild flowers can flourish.

Older and unusual breeds of animal are much favoured for conservation work because they are hardier, more suited to rougher vegetation and do not require the large amounts of nutrients that more modern breeds need. On the Isle of Wight, for instance, one of the Before the war, marginal most successful conservation National Trust has been the feral goat.

> ntroduced five years ago - the goats were original nally brought from north Devon but now belong to the National Trust - the animals spend the whole year browsing 100 acres of Trustowned land at Bonchurch Down near Ventnor.

Tony Tutton, the island's National Trust property manager, says: "A lot of the unimproved chalk grassland on the island is in danger of encroachment from wild privet, holm-oak, bramble and blackthorn. The holm-oak is particularly intrusive but the 60-odd feral goats control all the scrub, and in so doing allow plants like salad burnet. horseshoe vetch, stemless thistle, early gentian and rock-

rose to flourish." Fifteen New Forest ponies are used on 80 acres of heath at Luccombe Down, north of Bonchurch, where in the 1980s two very cold winters killed off all the gorse. The ponies nibble the grass which has come back into these bare areas, encouraging heather to spread. Insects here are eaten by the rare Dartford warbler, which depends on the heather.



The National Trust uses Dartmoor ponies as a nature conservation tool on the Pentire Peninsula in Cornwall. Elsewhere goats, sheep and cattle perform a similar function

National Nature Reserves. grazing takes place on 108. English Nature actually manages - directly or indirectly most of these reserves. Some of the sites it owns itself, some it leases from farmers and landowners and there are others where management is retained by the landowner but under an agreement with English Nature. Managing means looking after the whole estate; its habitats and species. Maurice Massey. English Nature's management co-ordinator, says: "We have our own stock

licence by other people. We come to an agreement with the farmer about which animals are best for the job, where they graze and for how long during the year to achieve the nature conservation interest.

"Sometimes grants are

made to the farmer to assist with positive management of the site - hundreds or thousands of pounds - but payments vary from site to site and depend on how much the farmer's aims and our aims correspond."

There is one footnote to this story. This type of grazing has given a huge shot in the arm

for rare breeds like Soay, Hebridean and Manx Loghtan sheen and minority cattle breeds like Dexter, Longhorn

and Belted Galloway. As Peter King at the Rare Breeds Survival Trust says: "Conservation grazing has been a splendid way of demonstrating the part that these breeds can play in farming in the future.

 National Trust. North Cornwall Countryside office: 01208 863046; National Trust. Isle of Wight: 01983 536445; English Nature (inquiries service): 0733-455101; Rare Breeds Survival Trust 01303 696551.



for grazing but the norm is for

the reserves to be grazed under

AMONG a flock of black-headed gulls out on a playing-field, you sometimes notice a gull that looks slightly different. It is a little taller, and when it walks it does not waggle its bottom in the ungainly way the others do.

Look a little closer, and further differences become apparent. Whereas the black-headed gulls have red legs and beaks, in this bird they are yellowgreen. It lacks the dark mark behind the eye that the black-headed gulls have in winter, and although, like them, it has black wingtips, in this bird they are flecked with white "mirrors". It is like a small herring gull, except that its beak is not so ferocious-looking.

Rather surprisingly, this bird is called a common guil. In fact, it is only common in the summer in Scotland. Over most of the British Isles, it is far outnumbered in the winter by the black-headed gulls. There are about three million of those here in January and February, and only about 700,000

common gulls. In both species, a large majority of these wintering birds are immigrants from continental Europe, and will go back there to breed in the spring. We shall be left with getting on for half a

Nothing common about these gulls FEATHER REPORT

million pairs of black-headed gulls (which by then will actually have their black heads), and perhaps 70,000 pairs

of common guils. I always like sporting a common gull among its commoner relatives. It has such a delicate, refined air as it stands there. In fact, it can scream and squall above a rubbish dump with the best of them, in hard weather.

However, more often in the winter it is found in ones or twos with other species of gull, or else in flocks out on certain kinds of farmland. Large flocks are sometimes found on ploughland, but they like best to feed on pastures grazed by sheep or cattle, and are especially attracted to chalky uplands,

where they find abundant earthworms in the soil beneath the grass.

In the evening they will fly a long way to roost, settling down rather restlessly for the night on estuaries or reservoirs. En route they fly steadily and gracefully. They can also be quite acrobatic when swooping down on a field or a stretch of water. One has even been seen looping the loop on the way

Next month the residents and the winter visitors will both start making their way north to their breeding grounds, and for a while they will be seen everywhere in Britain. But by the spring, there will be very few left in England or Wales.

Odd pairs are found breeding south of the Border every year, particularly Kent coast. These lonely couples are thought to be continental birds that did not go home. But in summer most of the British nesters will be up on the Scottish moors.

They nest by the sea and near lochs. making a scrape for their eggs on islets and sandbanks, on dry patches in bogs, or high up on the moorland

On the hillsides these white birds can be seen from a long way off, sitting on their nests among the stones and grass and the springing heather. For common gulls, they are always uncommonly beautiful.

DERWENT MAY

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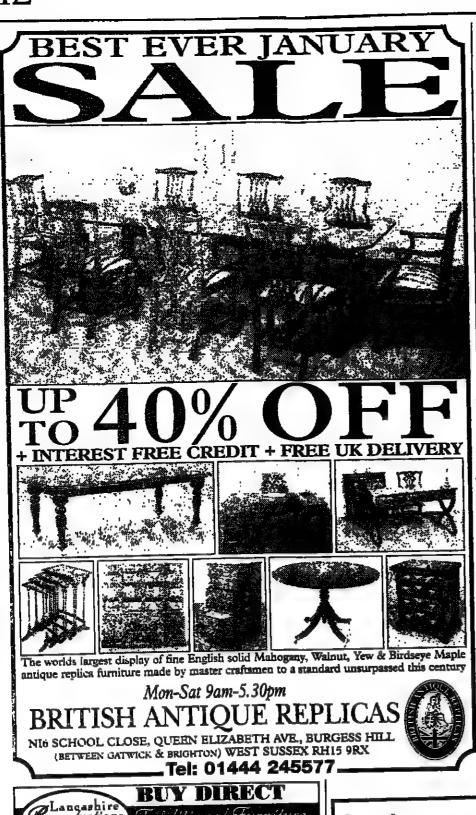
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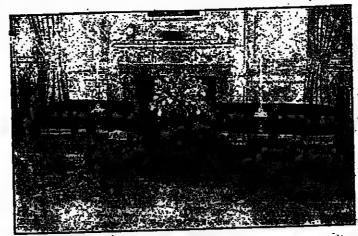


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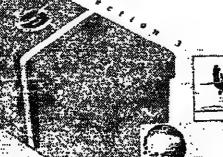
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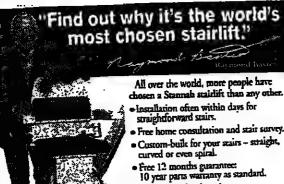
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Apparently, one type of fibre carries the 'hurt' or pain message to the brain, while the other, thicker type is capable of acting in a contradictory way by blocking out for erecting a gate to; the 'hurt' signal, thereby preventing its transmission to the brain.

in fact, acupuncture and pain-killers both work on this 'gate' theory to allievate pain. As does Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Simulation (TeNS), which is now being employed with increasing aucess in NHS Hospitals and Clinics throughout the UK. Utilising precisely the same effective principle, researchers found that TeNS produces an intense stimulation which activates an area of the brain which, in turn, inhibits the pathways that transmit pain signals Although it is not a cure. TeNS is now accepted by the medical profession as being of significant benefit to many in controlling any land of physical pair. While TeNS has a remarkably wide range of applications - it has proven to be successful in alternating pain associated with a variety of allieuents - it seems to work better when the area of pain is localised rather than general.

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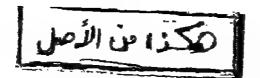
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Aromatherapy for animals? Ask the dog with travel sickness, the paranoid puss or the racehorse with sore shins

A sniff a day keeps vets away

ristin Kosowan has ing for pet owners. Ms been an animal Kosowan a science graduate. aromatherapist for runs one-day aromatherapy nearly seven years. ever since a patient asked for help to cure a Jack Russell terrier of travel sickness. From that casual inquiry, Ms Kosowan has seen her practice, Essentially Animals, in Marlborough, Wiltshire, grow into a full-time job, which takes her all over the country. and cost £45 per person. There She has treated horses, dogs, are separate workshops for cat and dog owners.
The bulk of Ms Kosowan's cats and other animals, including a bantam.

Aromatherapy is natural healing using highly concentrated extracts - called essential oils - taken from herbs. flowers and other plants.

"Using plants to help healing is the oldest medicine in the world. If you think about it, it is going back to what animals used to graze on." Ms Kosowan says. By combining essential oils in the correct quantities, aromatherapy works holistically by promoting healing and health within the body. The application of a variety of oils, shampoos, fotions and poultices has helped her to cure a racehorse with sore shins brought about by galloping in training, a cat so tinuid that its answer to everything in life was to run away. and the reluctant travelling Jack Russell.

It is the ability to know which oils to blend and in what strengths that lies at the heart of the aromatherapist's work. Essential oils come in different strengths and with varying properties. A minute amount of some oils can be highly potent and need to be used spaningly.

Aromatherapy is not something you should attempt if you haven't been properly trained," Ms Kosowan says. Even though all the products are natural, no natural product is 100 per cent safe.

There are levels of safety and precautions must be taken but once the appropriate preparation has been formuated, it is simple to use."

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workshops to demonstrate some of the natural ways of alleviating a wide range of mental and physical ailments. from skin, joint and respiratory problems to hormonal and behavioural problems. These are held monthly at venues around the country

clientele come to her with common ailments such as fleas and ear mites, for which non-prescription treatment is available over the counter. More serious complaints usually find their way to her by way of a vet.

Sometimes a vet will ring me when he's nied everything else. Others call because they have an open mind towards holistic healing." The British Veterinary Association supports the use of aromatherapy, describing it as "another tool in the kit bag with which to help cure animals".

In other cases, per owners will often approach Ms Kosowan direct. I always ask whether owners have talked to their vet and what they have said. I am not allowed to diagnose and I prefer to work alongside vets," she says. Because she offers afterna-

tive therapies for animals, Ms Kosowan is subject to the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 which states that only the owner, a ver or someone acting in consultation with a vet may treat an animal. Having ascertained the

problem, she will prescribe one of the many off-the-shelf aromatherapy remedies or custom-blend a lotion, which is then applied to a part of the animal where the hair is thinnest in order for the oils to be absorbed by the skin. Where the ailment is in a joint, the

compound is applied directly. Other methods of healing include the use of special was treated with a peppermint tea tree shampoo made from

Although the number of vets in Britain who also practise aromatherapy is small, the profession has taken a positive view of alternative therapies. Tim Couzens is a ver who has turned his back on conventional medicine and exclusively uses alternative methods at his holistic centre in East Sussex. His clients fall into two categories: those who believe in alternative medicine as a first choice and those who come as a last resort when all else has

"Aromatherapy is just part of the practice. There can be times when I may not use it for weeks," he says. In keeping with the ethos of holistic medicine. Mr Couzens combines his knowledge with homoeopathy, herbalism and other natural methods.

here appropriate. he may take more than one approach. And he sometimes lets the animals sniff the oils and select the ones they prefer and so consequently need. He guards against a mint-loving horse choosing oil of peppermint by offering the animals an appropriate selection.

"I let them smell maybe four or five oils and that works out as a fairly reliable guide to what oils they need." says Mr Couzens, who charges £48-£50 for an initial hour-long consultation. Prospective clients should also take into account the cost of treatment oils. These can vary considerably depending on the oils used. Mis Kosowan makes no

charge for her consultations but sells a range of lotions. creams and shampoos which start at £4.50 and rise to £18.

Brendan Martin

 Essentially Animals. Killycronagh, Back Lune. Mariborough, Wilshire SNS UJ 101672 511959).



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Tirginie Host is insistent.

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ever noticed that

one of my shoul-

ders sloped to the

ieft, and that I nat-

bead to one side.

"Your body has become

while to become used to a

Mrs Denys-Struyt's belief that

there are six muscular

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muscles in the body. Ideally,

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fully and easily. But our

bodies come to bear the brunt

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more correct posture. "

glass.

Our back garden faces open countryside and last March our ten-year-old cat was attacked and killed we believe by a fox. I contacted the RSPCA, which said that this was unlikely because foxes don't take domestic animals. We are planning to get another kitten this spring. Could be fall victim to a fox?

A VET WATES

I have nothing good to A say about urban foxes. They are vermin, like wild rats, mink or mice. They take poultry, per rabbits, guinea pigs, lambs and the chicks of ground-nesting birds, killing many more than they can possibly eat. But they are cowards. They won't tackle healthy cats because cats fight back. When cats and foxes meet, they usually ignore each other. But when a row develops, the fox usually backs off. Your new kitten will meet plenty of dangers throughout his life, but foxes are at the bottom of the hazard list.

Our ten-year-old cat, Hubert, developed a sore on his upper lip. The vet called it a rodent ulcer and prescribed tablets for it. He said it could be removed by freezing it under anaesthetic. What caused it?

A Rodent ulcers are common. The scientific name is eosinophilic granuloma and they are categorised as "conditions of unknown origin" Suggested causes include infections by various viruses or bacteria; persistent irritation resulting from licking by the cat's rough tongue; a link with feline leukaemia; or some form of hypersensitivity.

The varying responses to treatment support the view that there are several different causes. Some ulcers clear up with hormone treatment. Others respond to corticosteroids. Surgical treatment - either cryo-surgery, which destroys the ulcer by freezing it, or simple excision — usually solves the problem, but it can recur. And some rodent ulcers disappear spontaneously. without treatment.

We bought Pippa, our Cocker Spaniel puppy, from a pet shop two months ago. We have just noticed she has a hernia. Will this affect her and should we have it operated on?

A I don't know. If it is an umbilical hernia — which is a hole left in the ahdominai wali whère the umbilical cord was attached and no bigger than a medium sized grape, there is little chance of trouble in the future. If it is larger, see your vet and take his advice.

I hope you are going to have Pippa spayed. If so, the hernia could be repaired at the same time, which would mean using one anaesthetic for two operations, with reduced costs

JAMES ALLCOCK Readers should write to The Times Vet, Weekend, The Times. I Pennington Street, London E. 9201. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.

the chains build up tension

points which, over time, be-

"Part of the reason is stress.

The result is an immovable

Sometimes it may have been

because of an accident or an

injury," Ms Host says.

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method" therapist. Although her work is re-lated to both fields — she is a member of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapists - it is "verrey, verrey different", she

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and brought up in France.
The trouble is that very few people in Britain have ever heard of the GDS method. It was developed in the 1960s by a Belgian physiotherapist and osteopath named Godelieve Denys-Struyf, who has since taught the method at the European School of Osteopathy, in Maidstone, Kent. In essence it synthesises osteopathy, physiotherapy, something called holistic gymnastics — "a form of body

treatment.

When we

The guiding principles are that the GDS therapists treat the whole person. "Holistic" is their middle name. Whereas a physiotherapist

> sprained knee and fix the problem, a GDS therapist would look to the underlying cause of the weakness. Otherwise, the patient would in time be back with the same sprained ankle, says Ms Host. "Symptoms are often unre-

lated to causes," she says. Her other role is parteducational. She seeks to explain to her patients why their bodies are rebelling by causing them pain, and how to try to restore a sense of harmony



Helping the body heal itself

Every patient re RACHEL KELLY wrathy tilted my quires a different approach, called from her nor that I slumped forward, wide experience of different nor that my feet did not face body therapies, she says. One forward. As she examined me, Ms Host subtly adjusted my posture and said I would feel may shrink at her touch and therefore she will reject massage, she explains. Others are somewhat wobbly. rationalists who thrive on used to standing the wrong way," she said. "It will take a

explanations Experience and Mrs. Denys-Struyf's teaching means that I can almost read a person by their body lan-guage, their face, they body shape, the way they talk and walk. My treatment is then tailored to that person," she

Our session began with a general chat about my medical background, followed by one



Virginie Host and patient

GDS method

treatment that can think of. Advantages: Noninvasive, pleasant to extremence Disadvantages: theories about muscle. chains. Cost: £48 for an initial one-hour session, £40 for

What it is: A synthesises practically every body therapy you Difficult to follow the:

subsequent treatments.

to feel the real benefit. For now, I felt the sensation of walking with my feet anchored more firmly on the ground and a loosening of the

pain, spine problems, breathing difficulties or general bodi-ly stress should benefit from Ms Host's gentle ways.

Crescent, London WIN 3HE (0171-631 0604).

hip or a faulty digestion. Gradually, such stresses and inflexibility in turn anger patients as they feel increasingly trapped in their bodies. The body is like a prison and people become unhappy living in it," Ms Host says, in

the kind of mind-body language that the GDS method holds sucred. he then worked on my tension points as I lay on the couch, investigating exactly where the trapped

tension was and all the while recommending ways for me to stand and sit and how to become more aware of my body. Sometimes she used gentle massage, sometimes she

asked me to push against her. sometimes she referred to Mrs Denys-Struyi's diagrams that decorate the walls of her treatment room in Regent's Park, north-London. She recommended that I had about six more treatments

shoulders. Anyone suffering from sports injuries, rheumanic

• Virginie Host can be contacted via The Hale Clinic, 7 Park

Old pals aid Clinton on letters 'hotline'

AN AVERAGE of 15,000 Americans room and placed under the Presiwrite to President Clinton every day but only those bearing one of two magic numbers can be certain to reach the Oval Office.

These "Dear Bill" letters are part of a private epistolary brains trust that Mr Clinton has established with his oldest friends and earliest

At a time when Washington is obsessed by questions of access to the President, particularly from Asian donors to the Democratic Party, this small cadre of loyalists provides perhaps the most telling insight into how this President tests the waters in his nation.

They are the chosen few who have been given a secret nine-digit post code and a personal fax number, the only group of American citizens who can honestly say they have a direct line to Mr Clinton and his policy. Any letter bearing the secret "zip" code is quickly removed from the daily pile in the White House post

she said. "He wishes he could walk dent's door. The faxes that spew into the small cubbyhole next to the Oval out, just casually up and down the street, and have people come up to him and talk about what they're Office are swiftly rushed to his desk. When Carolyn Staley, the preacher's daughter raised in the house thinking ... We try to keep him on target. We're real people. We're real salt of the earth, blue collar, no

next to Billy Clinton, wanted to rebuke the President last spring, she sent a fax. Mrs Staley, now deputy director of the National Institute for Literacy, said the Clinton budget would reduce spending on adult literacy to below the levels of the Bush Administration. Within hours she had a call from a budget analyst, and adult education programmes are now scheduled to receive a \$95 million injection in this year's presidential budget.

Earlier this month, when the Supreme Court was hearing arguments in the sexual harassment suit brought against Mr Clinton by Paula Jones, a former Arkansas state employee, Mrs Staley sent

normalising relations with that country was a good thing. Mauria Aspell, the only other non-Catholic at St John's parish school in Hot Springs, Arkansas, is another corr-"At some level this is killing him," espondent; Tommy Caplan, an author who sometimes works on

speeches, is one, too.
"He contacts them afterwards by phone late at night and even his has talked to. He has to feel he is getting all the information before making a decision," said one White

silver sooon in the mouth."

Another who stays in contact is

David Leopoulos, a chum from elementary school who is now a

travelling computer software sales-

man. He will send as many as three

faxes a week from his laptop on subjects from the North American Free Trade Agreement to what he

has heard on radio talk-shows

Philip Jamison, in his class at

Georgetown University and a Viet-

nam veteran, told the President that

around the country.

House aide yesterday.
"It's all part of the Zist-century outreach. If Al Gore becomes president he will probably have his own e-mail and personal website."

Poring over these missives, between 100 and 500 a week, is said to be an indispensable part of Mr Clinton's private time, the three to four hours that have been built into his daily schedule by Erskine



Only a privileged few can be certain that their letters will reach President Clinton in the Oval Office

Canadian trappers cash in on fad for fur

FROM RICHARD CLEROUX

A SALE of furs opened in Toronto yesterday and is expected to provoke protests by animal rights activists around the world. More than 100,000 pelis are expected to he sold this weekend after a return to

popularity for fur garments.

Alison Beal, of the Fur Institute of Canada, said the demand was being driven by fashion designers and the fashion press in New York. The sudden resurgence of

popularity of furs, which had been in steady decline for the past ten years, is attributed in large part to the prominence given furs in Vogue magazine and other fashion publica-

More than 80 per cent of the furs sold in Toronto this weekend will find their way to New York.

Only a year ago fur sales were so depressed that the annual June fur auction in ending a tradition that went back almost 200 years.

The new-found popularity is a bonanza for Canadian trappers, most of whom are aboriginal people living in remote areas of northern Canada for whom there is little else by way of work.

In poor years, a beaver skin will fetch \$80 (£49) for a trapper, double that for an furs are rare the market can fluctuate and even a modest beaver pelt can fetch \$200.

Republican joins Cabinet

liam Cohen of Maine was sworn in as Defence Secretary yesterday to become the first Republican to serve in a Clinton Cabinet. He

succeeds William Perry.

President Clinton said the Senate's 99-0 vote to confirm Mr Cohen "sent a strong signal of its intention to work ... in a bipartisan spirit to preserve and enhance our national security. Bill Cohen is the embodiment of that spirit." Mr Cohen said he looked forward to serving "to a new century with clarity of purpose". (AP)



Pope attacks media for 'unwholesome' message

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE Pope yesterday accused the world's media of mocking religious believers by portraying them in a bad light and bombarding the young with "unwholesome images", rather than reinforcing moral values in the run-up to the millennium. He also said he sympathised with the "sufferings of divorced people", but said remarriage after divorce

constituted "moral disorder". in a message for World Communications Day, the Pope said the global explosion of information technology had given people "an ever-growing choice of sources ... but the reater the choice, the harder it may be to choose responsi-II was increasingly diff cult to "protect one's eyes and ears from images and sounds which arrive through the media unexpectedly and uninvited". The media reached families including very young children ... What way

do the media point to? What truth do they propose? What Parents found it especially

hard to guard their children from unwholesome messages, the Pope said, and it was "shocking how easily advanced communication technologies can be exploited by those whose intentions are evil". The Vatican has shown growing concern over sex and violence on television, and pornography on the Internet.

The Pope said many people in the Third World aspired to new technology, but were concerned about "domination of the media by so-called Western culture ... Media proquats are seen as in some wa representing values that the West holds dear ... The truth may well be that the foremost value they really represent is commercial profit."

Programmes which dealt with religious or spiritual aspirations or were morally uplifting and helped people to lead better lives were decreasing. "It is not easy to remain optimistic about the positive influence of the media when they appear either to ignore the vital role of religion in people's lives or to mock

religious belief." Speaking at the end of a Vatican conference on the family, the Pope said the Church could "not be indifferent to the painful problem" of divorce and remarriage. The task of the Church was to deal with family disintegration through "pastoral care consis-tent with Christ's teaching".

The Pope's guardian of doc-Trinal purity, Cardinal Josep Ratzinger, yesterday also upheld the ban on the ordination of women. But he surprised observers by decreeing that those who advocated women priests were guilty of "an error" rather than "heresy".



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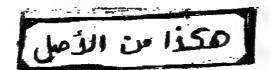
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Dune roaming in the land of the gods



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Olympic Airlines (0171-409 2400) flies from London to Kalamata via Athens from £220. including taxes. Regular Athens and Kalamata cost less than £10, but take

Reading: The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends: Pausania - Guide to Greece Vol 2 Southern Greece (Penguin, £9,99, ISBN 0 140 44126 X). Modern Greece, by C.M. Woodhouse (Faber, E9.99, ISBN 0571 101227). Greece, the Rough Guide (Rough Guides, £9,99, ISBN

"n Greece they have a saying: "The British go to the islands, the Germans go to the mainland." As a generalisation, it holds the road well, but less well than it

The British; drawn by Lord Byron's incantation about the isles of Greece, and by a vague sense of island-to-island affinity, fly down in swarms to lay waste to Corfu. Rhodes, and any other bit of Greece surrounded by water and serving English breakfasts.

The Germans, only a car ride away and more inclined to take their sightseeing seri-ously, used to make a land thrust through Yugoslavia to Athens, Delphi and Olympia, penetrating all the way through the Peloponnese to the three dagger-like promon-

tories at its tip. Since the former Yugoslavia became a war zone, this route has become difficult. As a result, many sleepy villages in the Peloponnese, where accommodation is more likely to be advertised as "Zimmer" than "Rooms", now find themselves sleepier than they would wish. So it is a good time to tear yourself away from the sun-baked rocks which pepper the Aegean and explore the mainland.

There, you can find a different Greece. Several, in fact. Those three promontories -Messinia. Mani and Malea are like a trident jabbing into the Mediterranean. They look alike on the map, but they have quite different characters. The most dramatic contrasts are between Messinia and Mani, separated by a fiord narrow enough to look across, yet utterly opposite

landscapes.

After the visitors leave every year, it rains for six months," a native told us in the village of Chrani, our base in Messinia. This tidy seasonal segregation of rain and sun is the clue to the Messinian climate. However fiercely the summer blazes, a trickle of water still runs in the rocky guilles, shaded by fig trees and elderberry. The land. is a cornucopia of lemons, meions, nectarines and vines. Here is the source of the Kalamata olives, which are among Greece's juiclest and most ubiquitous exports.

By Greek standards, this fertile country is nothing less than lush. It has glassy lakes, where the reflection of the swallows swooping to drink enough of the territory's natural wealth to build many marshy places where beds of monuments. Later warfare

George Hill begins our four-page Greece special in the Peloponnese



The first recorded games at Olympia were in 776 BC dotted it with the hulks of

the giant green calamus reeds grow ten or 12 feet tall. The stems look like bamboo, and the dense thickets seem so exotic that it would scarcely be a surprise to see a giant panda shouldering its way through the stems, or even a crocodile.

The sunshine is always tempered by a haze. Across the fiord from our waterside bal-cony in Chrani, the Taiyetus mountains, which make the backbone of the Mani, were only faintly visible - except at dawn, where they were outlined in silhouette by the sun rising behind, as it pierced the radiant haze like an X-ray.

All winter, the clouds blow in across Messinia from the west, and when they touch the hilltops, they let their blessings pour down. Afterwards, they blow across the parched Mani, exhausted, and leave it as parched as ever. The Mani is an arid moonscape of bare rock and thorn bushes, with its own alarming beauty and the strangest village architec-

ture in all Greece. It is hard country, with a history of brigands, anchorites and blood feuds. Geographically it is the utmost tip of Sparta, and life there until recently was as spartan as it is possible to be. Profoundly inaccessible and introverted for centuries, it is now easy to visit by a new fast road from Kalamata, which may be a blessing or a curse.

Messinia, by contrast, is soft country. In classical times, the hard Spartans generally kept it firmly under their thumb. This means that it is a region without many classical remains - the Messinians were not allowed to hang on to

tles, which the Nazis later found useful. But those in search of coltumns and architraves do not have to drive far north to find Olympia, one of the richest classical sites in Greece. Olympia is as lush as Messinia, so that one can explore the stadium of the original Olympic games and the earthquake-tumbled ruins of the temple of Zeus among shady eucalyptus trees and

flowering shrubs. The temple of Zeus was an equal rival to the Parthenon in its day, and its carvings of gods and heroes, beautifully displayed and still russetcoloured from their centuries covered by iron-rich silt, are arguably even more exciting than the Parthenon marbles.

Messinia "sandy Pylos" and says it was ruled by King Nestor, extremely rich and extremely old. When Telemachos, son of the lost Odysseus, steals away from home to hunt for his father, Nestor is the first person he visits in search of news. The old king, who had beautiful manners, sat the lad down beside him on soft rugs of fleece there on the sand of the sea shore".

The rest of Greece is all rocks, but this coast is lined with beautiful white beaches, many almost unvisited, and dunes of fine sand minutely criss-crossed with the footsteps of a diverse wildlife.

Every year, in a highly vulnerable migration which was already ancient when Nestor was a schoolboy, turtles come out of the sea here to

lay their eggs in the sand. At the top of the beach, one can find rows of curious little enclosures marked with pebbles and chicken-wire, with signs on upright sticks, like tombstones in a pers' ceme-tery. When the turtles clamber ashore at night, observers with torches note where they lay their eggs, and mark the spots to warn people not to

tread on the eggs.

I have not the slightest doubt which beach Nestor was sitting on when he spread out his sheepskin for Telemachos. The place is a little way from modern Pylos, at the other end of the bay of Navarino, where Admiral Codrington achieved Greek independence almost by accident one afternoon in 1827, by sinking 50 Turkish ships though he was not under orders to do anything of the kind. The same bay was the Ottoman and Frankish casbattleground in one of the all too rare engagements of the Peloponnesian War in which the Athenians gained an advantage over the Spartans, and did not throw it away.

In Nestor's time, Pylos was near the north end of the bay. The ruins of an archaic for-tress still stand there giddily on top of a steep crag. This crag is hollow: the fortress is perched above the vault of a cobwebbed cathedral-like cav-ern, still known as Nestor's Cave. The cave overlooks a crescent cove of white sand fit

for any king.
Hollowed out between two promontories scattered with prehistorical artefacts, and backed by dunes, it is so symmetrical that it seems to have been drawn with a pair of compasses. Its waters shelve gently from green to turquoise to peacock blue calm, safe and clean. In autumn and spring, ospreys stop on their way to or from Africa, to gorge themselves on the fish

in the lagoon behind. This exquisite haven is almost deserted. Sunbathers may overlook it. because its name in Greek, Voithio Kilia ("Ox Belly" Cove) is unalluring. More practically, it cannot be reached except on foot, or along bone-shaking rough tracks through marshes and calamus thickets.

I hope those tracks remain forever unimproved, and that Ox Belly Cove will always be known only to the handful who hike across the dunes. and reach that immaculate curve of blue and white, where they can sit down on the sand beside Nestor's ghost.

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Greece: On the tiny island of Paxos, days are spent on little else than walking, boating and eating ...

We're busy doing nothing - cheers

axos: the very word suggests peace. It was a pity, then, that the message had not got through to the instructors at the sailing school below our villa. They were getting ready for the summer season, painting boats and hammering nails from morning to night.

All of this work was accompanied by loud pop music, which shattered the calm of an otherwise tranquil bay, It began at an ungodly hour (all right, about nine o'clock), just as we were pondering the day's most difficult decision: whether to have croissants or crusty bread fresh from the bakery oven. The last thing I needed before breakfast was Gary Glitter inviting me to be

in his gang.
If your idea of a holiday is an endless traipse from museums to art galleries to churches, you would not enjoy Paxos. But for two tired parents with a nine-month-old child in tow, it was bliss. There is little to do, so you do little slowly. Life settles into a pattern - a long, lazy break-



Forget the car, going shopping is donkey work on Paxos

the shops, lunch and a siesta, then perhaps a walk to a deserted beach. When you return, it is almost time for the first of the evening's drinks as the sun sets over the bay, enticing you to stroll out once more for fresh fish at a waterside taverna.

Our villa in Lakka encouraged such an existence. The balcony, bathed in afternoon sun, had views across the entire bay, from the harbour

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to the open sea. With a book in one hand and a glass of wine in the other, there was little temptation to move on.

Two hours from Cortu by

boat, Paxos is like its larger neighbour but without the crowds. Day-trippers may invade Gaios, the capital, for a few hours each afternoon, but the lack of an airport keeps most tourists away. Move up the coast to Loggos or Lakka and you keep running into the

Seven miles long by two miles wide, the island has one bus, five taxis and a petrol station, which often runs out of petrol. But who needs a car on an island that small? Instead, you walk in the shade of olive trees, a legacy of 400 years of Venetian occupation. In two weeks you can cover every footpath on the island, so why hurry? Even in May we found an hour or two in the morning and the same before supper was enough.

By walking, you get to see the wild flowers, oleander and rock roses and bright Spanish broom, which burst magically out of the clifftops and olive groves each spring. And, by walking, you discover the hidden coves along the east coast, small pebble beaches in the

same few people, most on their eighth or ninth visit. It is that

sort of place.

shadow of forested slopes, which can be reached only on foot or by hired boat. It does not take much effort, in May at least, to find a private beach for the afternoon. A favourite walk from Lakka led to a Byzantine church, the oldest on the island, where the caretaker showed us in and refused to take any money. The path continued to an abandoned village, with decaying Vene-

tian villas and the ruins of an olive press, before skirting the crest of a dramatic bay as waves crashed against the

limestone cliffs below. This is the wild west coast, where you swim or take a boat at your peril. However, one morning we hired a boatman to take us around the island in an old fishing craft, open to the sun and wind. When he was not drawing on his cigarette he was sipping

from a can of beer. Our trip took us past strange rock formations and into caves before the boatman dropped us off for while on Antipaxos, a tiny satellite island with vinevards instead of olive groves and some of the finest sandy beaches any-



Though fashionable with the yachting crowd, Lakka has a village life beyond tourism

After a week in Lakka, we moved two miles up the coast to Loggos. Our villa here, high above the harbour, had views stretching 12 miles across the Ionian Sea to the Greek mainland. The terrace was shaded by olive, lemon and rose trees and trellised vines, forcing the sunlight to play peck-a-hoo with the whitewashed walls. Where Lakka is yachtie-fash-

villa crowd; where Lakka has find out. On the day we a life beyond tourism and a main square where locals gather at night, Loggos is little more than a collection of bars and tavernas around an outra-

geously pretty harbour. eously pretty harbour.

The tavernas are so close to the water that you have to move the tables when the bos goes past - at least, that is

arrived, workmen started digging up the road, and we decided that even Gary Gifter was preferable to the noise of a JCB. People in the harbourside villes wondered

what had happened to freir quiet fishing village, the locals shrugged their shoul-ders and scolled Apd the bus? what the brochures claim. We It simply made a detour of



FACTFILE

Whatley Farm, Whatley, Frome, Somerset BAII 3LA (01373 836000), offers a two week self-catering holiday on Paxos -- one week at Villa Olly in Lakka and the other week at Villa Mandalena in Loggos — from £350 per

Other tour operators to Paxos include: Simply Ionian, 0181-995 1121; CV Travel, 0171-58) 0851; Sailing

Outcomed motorboals can be hired in Lakka or Loggos, or booked in advance through Planos Holidays, from £88 a week plus petrol.

Reading Landscapes of Paros, by Noel Rochford Sunflower, £6.99, ISBN 1 856 91083 O). Exploring Paxos and Antipaxos, by Susan Omar, available for £7 through Planos Holidays (address above), which also sells walking maps of the island for £5 and guidebooks for £6.

"Aren't you brave bringing a baby to Greece," people kept saying. Not at all; he had never been bappier. With few foreign bables there, Adam soon became a celebrity. Shop-keepers gave him lollies and chocolate sticks, against the wishes of his health-conscious parents; waitresses refused to let him leave without a kiss a privilege not extended to his father. If anyone loves children more than the Greeks, I have yet to meet them.

"First time on Paxos? You'll be back." said a couple we met on our last day there. And, yes, we probably will.

TONY KELLY ■ The author was a guest of

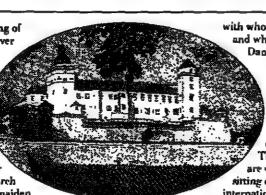


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and bar, Lido bar, library, shop and hairdressers. On the top deck there is a heated swimming pool, loungers and spacious

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DAY 3 Rudesheim Sailing back to the Rhine. we will visit the ancient town of Rudesheim. situated in the heart of the Rheingau, the centre of Cormany's wine growing area.

DAY 4 Frankfurt-Aschaffenburg Spend the moraing in Frankfurt, the site of the first German parliament, the birthplace of Goethe and one of the joint capitals of Charlemagne's empire. Leaving the Rhine we will enter the River Main and sail to Aschallenburg for an overnight mooring.

DAY 5 Aschaffenburg - Miltenberg-Marktheidenfeld Sail at dawn to Miltenberg.

a picturesque Bavarian village. Join a guided walking tour past delightful medieval and Renaissance houses, the imposing Gothic Merchant's Hall and the Market Square-Afternoon sailing to Marktheidenfeld, a tiny Franconian hamlet for an overnight mooring.



on the river, reaching the great city of Worzburg at lunch time. Here in the heart of the Franconi wine region we will explore the medieval. Baroque and Rococo architectural treasures.

DAY 7 Wurzburg - Kitzingen - Volksch -Hasefurt After breakfast there will be an pportunity to join a morning excursion at Kitzingen along the 'Romantic Road' to Rothenburg, thought by many to be Europe's most perfect medieval town. In the afternoon sail through the enchanting scenery to Hassfurt for an overnight messing.

DAY 8 Hassfurt-Bamberg -Nuremberg Arrive in Bamberg after breakfast. See the magnificent cathedral and explore this medieval gem with its Remaissance palaces and Baroque houses. Sail during the afternoon to the great city of Nuremburg for an overnight moving. DAY 9 Nuremberg-Hilpostein-Regensburg Todas, either cruise to Regensburg or take a city tour of Nuremburg which will include the 13th century city wall complete with meats, watchtowers and gates, some of the fabulous

Gothic churches and the medieval market. Moor overnight in Regensburg and enjoy a walk around one of the best preserved medicval towns in Europe.

DAY 10 Regensburg-Passau Stay in Regensburg until the mid-afternoon. S through the night to Passau.

DAY II Passau-London (Heathrow) Drive to Munich for British Airways return flight

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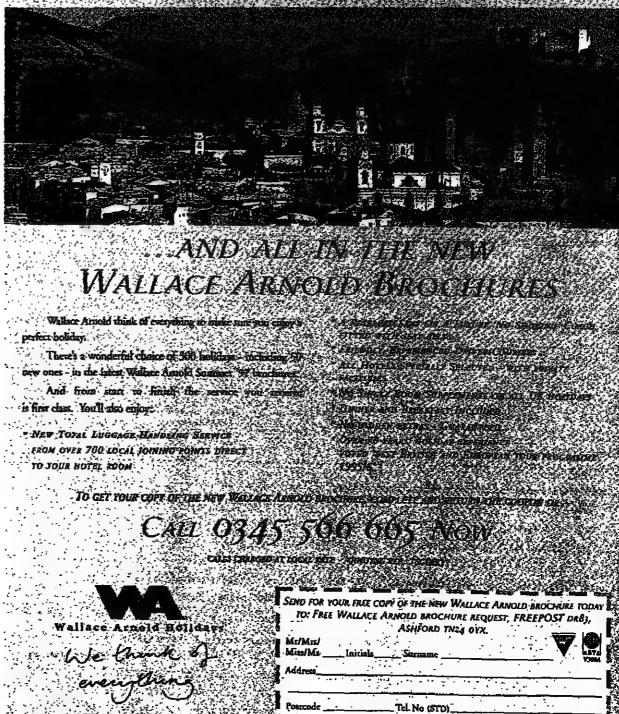
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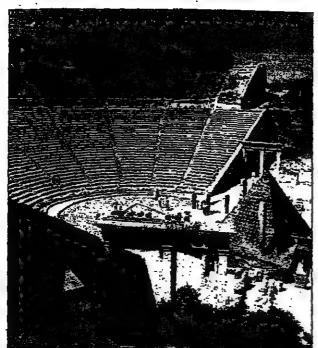
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while in Porto Heli the first-time visitor can find a perfect introduction to the delights of Hellenic life



The magnificent ancient theatre at Epidavros

Where to satisfy a Grecian yearn

or any traveller, the first visit to Greece is a memorable event; a place full of outstanding attractions that have to be seen. It has been pulling in the crowds for centuries, but I had

not been there before.

When I decided to make the trip last September, the question was: where to go in Greece? The consensus among my Hellenophile friends dictated a trip to the islands, but even here there was no unanimity, except that Corfu did not count. It had to be Simi, Paxos, Mykonos, Rhodes or Skiathos, but it must not have an airport, because then it

In the end; I took off for a week in Porto Heli, and no amount of advice could have

1 ALC

provided a better choice. Porto Heli is on the southeastern tip of the Peloponnese. about 100 miles from Athens by road or two and a half hours by sea from Piraeus on the Flying Dolphin, one of those fast hydroioil ferries that zip about the Aegean like giant

water beetles. The town is a yachting centre, rather upmarket and well provided with good restaurants. There are ancient sites close by and, if you must have islands, then Hydra, Spetses and Poros are no great distance away. Porto Heli, in short, has a microcosm of all that Greece has to offer and, having bought a map and hired a car, I set out to see the

The Peloponnese is overprovided with things to see and do, so it pays to be selective Besides, the countryside is mountainous, the roads are narrow and Greek drivers are kamikaze minded, so there is a limit to how far you can sensibly go in a day.

I have no great interest in pre-Christian sites and covered that part of the Greek experience with a visit to the amphitheatre at Epidavros. before pressing on to the coastal town of Nafplio, a Greek gem and a most romantic little place. Indeed, a man I met outside Nafplio told me that if my wife and I went walking through the old streets of the town we would fall in love all over again.

Natplio offers a combination of narrow, flower-filled streets, a vast central square lined with shops and restaurants, a great Venetian castle on the headland and the Bourtzi, an exquisite, smaller, late medieval fortress out in the bay. In the last century, the Bourtzi was the home of the town's executioner and in this century it served for a while as a luxury hotel, famous in

Greece - or at least in Nafplio as the place where Melina Mercouri, the actress and later

the Minister of Culture, consummated her first marriage. Epidavros and Nafplio, with a brief stop at the

exquisite Byzantine church at Ligourio, provided a good day out, but by sunset I was back in Porto Heli and eager to

that to enjoy, none of it too noisy. The resort straggles around the bay, past the dock for the yachts and the Flying Doiphin, and the western end of the promenade, known locally as The Corner, is where the international smart set congregates at sunset for a quick ouzo at Coco's cocktail bar, or a glass or two of retsina at Maxine's Portobello, before moving on to dinner at one of

the town's restaurants. The food was a revelation, because even my friends back home had not concealed the fact that the phrase "Greek cuisine" is usually an oxymo-

Dramatic view of the bay from the town of Nafplio, a romantic gem where married couples walking through the narrow old streets are reputed to fall in love all over again ron. However, dinner at Yannis Kontoyannis's Rota restaurant in The Corner was simply delicious. The Rota was exceptional

but there is plenty of competition, from the Taverna Costas or the Taverna Papadias. The dinner, the walk around the shore in the moonlight and a nightcap on the balcony look-ing over the bay were all delightful. After just two days in the country I was beginning to see why Greece was special.

It seemed sensible to fit in an island and, because Spetses is just ten minutes away by motorboat, this is the one chose. Spetses has plenty of beaches and a pretty little port where John Fowles stayed while he wrote The Magus, but there were rather too many tourists so half a day was enough.

For the rest of the week I alternated days in Porto Heli. snorkelling in the bay or doing very little two pastimes for which Porto Heli is ideal), with long forays into the hinterland to see some of the splendid medieval or Byzantine sites of the Peloponnese, such as Mistras and Karitena.

Mistras, or Mystra, is part-Frankish, part-Byzantine, a ruined, medieval town, topped by a large castle built by the mincely Villehardouins, a Frankish family who ruled

Answers from page 27

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6

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WORD WATCHING

creature, whether it be a Serpent or a Fish."

account man. Pillai = a child or person.

(b) A name given to the municipal magistrates of Toulouse. From

the late Latin capitolium, for capitulum, a chapter or town-hall

(a) An old book-name of the water-newt or some allied animal. Now applied to a genus of lizards (Cordylus). An adaptation of

the Greek kordúlos a water-newt. Topsell. Serpents, 1007: "Of

the Cordyl I finde some difference about the nature of this living

(a) The commercial name for a tierce or cask, in which dried fruit

and some other commodities are packed, which usually

(b) A native clerk or writer in the Madras Presidency of the

British Raj. A corruption of the Tamil Cannaka-pillai an

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hereabouts in the 13th century. The whole site is striking, best seen in the morning when the sun is full on it, a jumble of stone-built houses spread across the steep slope of the mountain, with narrow, cobbled streets lined with orange and olive groves, where small ornate Byzantine churches. their walls painted with fres-coes and hung with icons,

stand at every corner. Nearby Sparti, once the centre of the city state of Sparta, is a riot of concrete and need not delay any traveller eager to push north, past Megolopoli to the site of Karitaina. This is a pretty village, full of friendly people, and the main attraction is another medieval castle. This one once belonged to the knight Geoffery de Bruyere, a

paragon of chivairy and hero

cypress trees stand out like exclamation marks against the 36 silver-green of the olive groves.

I sat on the battlements, looking out at the land, and wondered why it had taken me 60 years to come here. A week is not enough to see even a small percentage of what the Peloponnese has to offer, but at least a start had been made. There was still Olympia to see, the hills of Arcadia and resorts such as Kalamata, so I shall have to

ROBIN NEILLANDS The author was a guest of Voyages Hena.

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of The Chronicles of the Morea, a book about the PORTO HELI FACT FILE short-lived Frankish kingdom which existed here in the 13th Wovages Hena, 1 Old Garden House, The Lanterns, Bridge century. The castle is in ruins Lane London SWII 3AD (0)71-924 4440), offers a week at Porto but the views from the crum-Heli in the Pelopunnese in a self-catering apartment by the shore from £371 per person, including flights, insurance and bling battlements are superb. stretching for miles over an empty golden landscape, where the black columns of the

The charge for car hire for one week is from £199, but you can arrange the car hire locally for about £30 a day.

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Greece: Staying in a cave with all mod cons and splendid views is the best way to avoid the crowds on Santorini

On top of the volcano

Te slept by night in a cave set into an almost perpen-dicular 900ft cliff and swam by day in the caldera - the crater left by the world's biggest volcanic erup-

tion 3,500 years ago.

Across the cliff were the hulks of the caves that were destroyed when the volcano last erupted 40 years ago. Yet hope - or is it greed anxious to cash in on tourism - usually wins over experience. Forty years on, hundreds of "caves", villas and houses once again tumble perilously down the cliffs of Oia (pronounced Eea) in Santorini, the island at the southernmost end of the Cyclades that was claimed by Plato as Atlantis.

Our cave burrowed deep into the cliff but there was no sense of claustrophobia and it came with all mod cons and a terrace overlooking the cal-dera and the volcanic island of Thirasia left behind after the earthquake. Wherever we looked, the colour was blue all the doors, the Aegean that flowed serenely over the caldera so far below and especially the sky. Sometimes it was difficult to detect where the sky ended and the sea began.

The ferries from Athens, a few cruise liners and the occasional yacht or gin palace steamed gently through the channel on their way to Thira. the island's capital.

At night, the sunsets are so spectacular that the clifftop is thronged with tourists. They arrive from all over the island to watch as the sun - appearing as the crimson globe of so many travel brochures — sinks below the horizon and sets the sky in flames.

The tidal wave created by the eruption on Santorini was so powerful that it swamped the Minoan civilisation of Crete 80 miles away and left that had flourished there since before the Bronze Age, buried

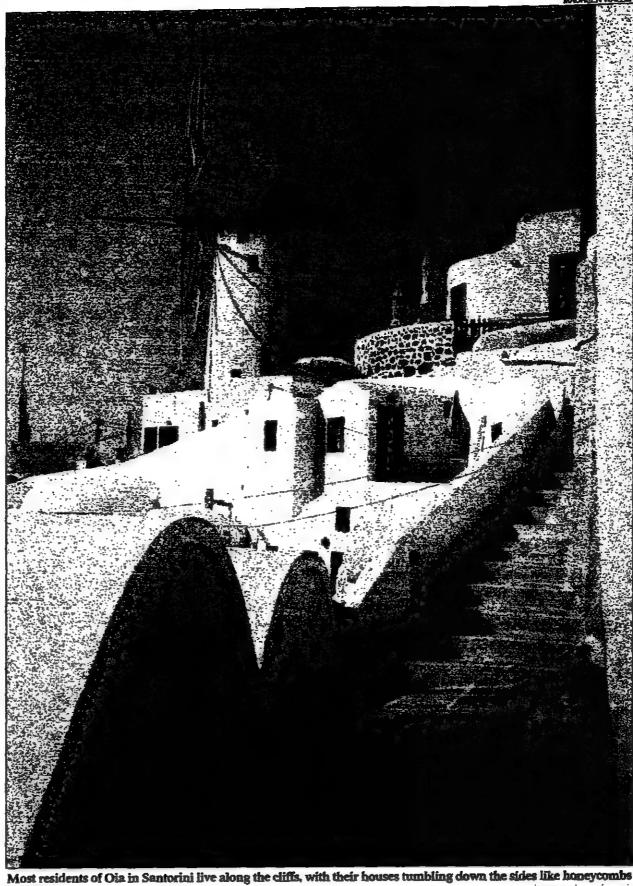
under mountains of volcanic islands and beaches that still have black sand.

Only this century have archaeologists uncovered their buried civilisation and the two great tourist attractions of Santorini today are from the Bronze Age — the ancient city of Thira, built on a clifftop at nearly 1,000ft to guard against pirates, and Akrotiri, both easily visited from Oia within an hour by car or the ubiquitous smolers.

Men and women were living at Akrotiri and ancient Thira, cultivating their vines and citrus trees, 3,500 years before the birth of Christ and it is an eerie and uplifting experience to visit what remains of their civilisation, a Minoan Pompeii. They knew they were living on a volcano and built their houses with stone. putting wooden joints between the walls to guard against earthquakes. They lived in three-storey houses with working lavatories and exquisite murals on the walls. They fished and hunted animals. They worked with gold, silver, copper, tin and bronze. They sculpted vases and decorated them beautifully.

here are equally cerie experiences in visits boat from modern Thira, with 587 steps down to the port or a dizzying funicular down the cliff, to the Kameni islands in the caldera which seem like coal heaps, on to the scarcely inhabited Thirasia, and then to watch the sunset from the sea.

Most residents of Santorini still live along the top of the cliffs, with their houses turnbling across the top and down the sides like honeycombs. Seen from the caldera, the red and black cliffs rise spectacularly with a spattering of white they tumble higgledy-piggledy



down the cliffsides, painted white with blue doors, many still in caves, most with balconies, interspersed with tiny alleyways and magnificent

Aithough it has only a few

island is so small that it could big beaches, mainly at Perissa easily be spoilt and some areas and Kamari to the south on already are. Kamari is a mini the eastern plain. Santorini Costa del Sol, thronged with lives today by tourism: once the season ends in October there is an emodus back to Athens and the mainland. The

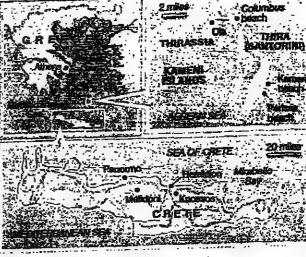
lines of sunbeds and the plain packed with hotels, but adventurous travellers can easily find deserted beaches. We took the bus from Oia to the beach at Columbus, where there were few sunbathers, two decent casés and swimmers can still occasionally hear the volcano rumbling below them.

ugust in Thira is a version of hell, as jostling and as crowded as India, thronged with cars and tourists and full of shops, particularly on the Street of Gold, and cases catering to the day-trippers from the cruise liners. Santorini is not all spoilt, however, and the authorities

seem to have put a stop to new building on the rest of the eastern plain. Oia is at the northernmost tip of the island. it is smaller, less crowded, than Thira, an enchanting village with a narrow central street, about 6st wide, with shops, cafés and restaurants on either side, a church and a main square with a baker and a bus station.

We walked down the steep cliff at night to the cases at the small port where fish were hauled out of the sea, scaled by your table, freshly grilled and served. A good meal with two bottles of wine for two cost less than £20. By day, we could swim from rocks a short walk from the port round the bottom of diffs.

Yet, unless you enjoy lazing in the sun with a pile of novels,



Santorini is a confection, an island to visit for only a few days. So we decided to try another Greek island, from one of the smallest to the biggest, and took the short hop to Crete to see if we could find a part that was still unspoilt. We did, very successfully, at Panormo, 55 kilometres west along the coast from Heraklion, once a busy harbour town for exports to Europe that was left behind when the motorways took over from steam railways.

anórmo today is what Greece used to be like: a small, unhurried and welcoming village where the men still sat in huddles all morning over their coffee. There were only a few shops and a few restaurants above a small deserted beach. We stayed at the Villa Kynthia, only 200 yards from the sea in the centre of the village, an old family house that has been lovingly restored and which now offers five bedrooms, a shaded courtyard and a small swimming pool and is almost next door to the best tavern in

All the sights of Crete, including Knossos, can be reached easily from here but we had seen them before and decided on an exploration of the mountains behind Panormo. There are parts of Crete that are packed with tourists but if you want solitude, space, grandeur, breathtaking views and the friendliness of tiny villages such as Kastri, the

mountains are the places to go.
Highlight of the baliday was
the cave in the hills above
Melidoni. It has recently been opened to tourists, though few find it. It was in this vast, underground cave, which still has fragments of pottery from the Minosin era and which has the awesome spaciousness of a attack in 1823 and refused to surrender. All were sufficiated when the leader of the Turkish army set fire to the cave's entrance and their remains are in a large grave in the main hall...

Stepping warily down into

FACT FILE

The author stayed at the Esperas complex at Oia, which the Greek Islands Club Private Collection, 66 High Street, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey (01932 220477) offers from £650 per person per week, including flights, transfers and accommodation. The club offers several other properties on the island, all with views over the caldera, as well as properties in Crete.

The best restnurant on Santorini is the Tomato on the east coast behind the airport. It sets London standards but charges at London standards, too.

Afternoon and evening cruises to the islands cost from about £15. The Thira funicular costs £2. Entrance to Akrotiri: about £3.50.

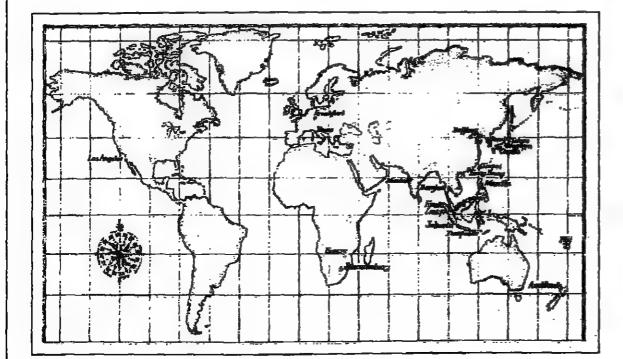
■ Flat shoes are essential in Santorini.

Reading: Crete: The Battle and the Resistance, by Antony Betvor (Penguin, £7.99. ISBN 0 140 16787 0). The Making of the Cretan Landscape, by Oliver Rackham (Manchester University Press, £19.99, ISBN 0 719 03647 X). Crete (Rough Guides, £8.99, ISBN 1858281326).

the depths of Meloni cave was an egric reminder of the old conflict between Greek and Turk it was a relief when we emerged to an allifesco supper of salad and kebabs at the cale above the cave and gazed down at the lights twinkling from the villages in the now peaceful plain below.

BRIAN MACARTHUR The author was a guest of the Great Islands Club.

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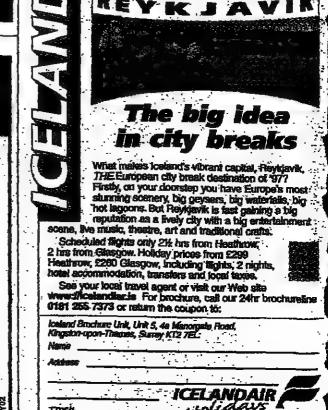
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REYKJAVI



Blow me down, it could be France

s you grow older and a little more world-weary you reach a moment in your life when all you want to do when you go on holiday is just sit on the beach and maybe swim a little. This moment turns out to be when you're three years old. If you happen to be a beachmad three year-old with a precocious taste for a little French food and sophistication, you might well consider lolling on a beach on the Côte d'Azur. But if you are a Francophilic three-year-old beach-boy who has a dread of those Côte d'Azur crowds, the French Caribbean may prove to be your paradise. especially because, at three, you're

too young to pick up the bar bills. But where? St Barthélemy is as good an introduction as any. St Barts, as it is known, is chic and mostly understated: think of it as the Caribbean's version of the little black dress. It is a Dorian Gray version of France, which stays youthful while the real thing ages.

Unlike most other Caribbean islands there is almost nothing to indicate that St Barts, with its authentic tabacs and boulangeries, isn't somewhere on the French Mediterranean coast. Even the supermarket is a replica of a French original, right down to the imported Brittany tomatoes.

The capital of this tiny island,

Gustavia (St Barts was owned by the Swedes for 100 years) has every conturier boutique that the swankiest French dresser could pine for: Lacroix, Gucci, Versace, Ralph Lauren. Cartier, Bulgari. There is good food on every corner. in L'Iguane, Gustavia even boasts the only sushi restaurant in the West Indies. The only way St Barts could be any more French would be if Sacha Distel personally serenaded you as you strolled through airport arrivals.

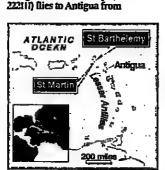
Although small - it takes only an afternoon to drive around the island - St Barts offers refuge to France's rich and famous, from the Rothschilds to Eric Cantona - as well as to Hello! faces such as Diana, Princess of Wales, and her photographer chum Patrick Demarchelier, who has a £3 million villa here (property on St Barts is pricier than in the posh quarters of Paris).

ST BARTS AND ST MARTIN FACIL FILE

■ Simply Caribbean, 3 Victoria Avenue, Harrogate HG1 1EQ (01423 at Guanahani on St Barts from £1,222 per person, based on double room and breakfast and including return flights and transfers. Prices for seven nights at La Samanna on St Martin start

St Barts and St Martin can be reached year-round via flights to Antigua. British Airways (0345

from £1,269 per person.



Gatwick, and BWIA (0181-577 1100) from Heathrow. You can also fly to St Martin on Air France (0181-742 6600) from Paris, and on KLM (0181-750 9000) through

No visa is required for EU nationals. Dollars and French francs are accepted.

■ Reading — St Martin: The Traveller's Tree. by Patrick Leigh Fermor (Penguin, £7.99, Weather Prophet, by Lucretia Stewart (Vintage, E6.99, ISBN 0 099 59761 6). Caribbean Islands U99 59/01 0). Caribbean Islands
Handbook 1997, by Sarah
Cameron (Footprint Handbooks,
E14.99, ISBN 0 900 75175 4).
St Barts: The Violins of SaintJacques, by Patrick Leigh Fermor
(Penguin, E5.99, ISBN 0 140
01661 9). Penguin Book of Caribbean Short Stories, ed E.A.
Markham (E8.99, ISBN 0 140 24503
0). The Northeastern O). The Northeastern Caribbean, by James Henderson

We arrived in St Barts from Antigua on one of those four-seater planes you thought were used only by Flying Doctors in the Australian outback. It said Carib on the side, presumably because the fuselage was too small to fit in all the letters of Caribbean Aviation. The airstrip looks about as long as a boules court, and ends in the sea. Make sure your pilot has good brakes. don't offer any guarantees.

Traditionally, the wealthy are in town when Europe is on the gloomy side in winter and early spring, which means that summer in the Caribbean is not only offseason and, therefore, cheaper, it is also far less crowded and not so socially competitive: women can wear the same Prada frock as last year and fewer people will be around to pity them.

Children get a chance to play on a beach, rather than being assigned a pricey daily square of sand on those private sandpits that dominate the Côte d'Azur. They can also swim in the sea without the need for an armful of vaccinations. The weather is pretty well con-

stant all the year round. The

summer is not ruined by high humidity. There is slightly more rain, but showers are brief. If you are unlucky, you might find yourself in the path of a hurricane: there have been two in the past two years. so the chance of another one are remote. But nature hasn't always read the latest on probability theory and in this part of the world they

As it turned out, we happened to be in St Barts when Hurricane Bertha sped past last July, causing not much damage, though a certain amount of panic in advance. But once you are sure that it isn't going to be a Big One, you might as well enjoy the experience for the 24

hours or so that your paths cross.

When the eye of the hurricane is passing directly above you — again a pretty long shot given the smallness of most of the Caribbean islands and the vastness of the surrounding ocean — the hurricane feels a bit like high-speed train travel, only in reverse: instead of you slicing through the atmosphere at 150mph, the atmosphere slices past you at 150mph. It's nature's



idea of a spring-clean. The palm trees bend at the waist, like in Apocalypse Now, as if they are bowing like humble subjects to some higher regal power. If you're smart, you'll just stay in your room and rely on room service.

uring the storm, elec-tricity can temporarily vanish. Even CNN, which was giving weather updates, can disappear if the hotel's satellite dish is struck by a gust of wind. It reminds you that nature is even more powerful than Ted Turner and Larry King.

Living through a hurricane is what Dr Anthony Clare might call a bonding experience. At the very fancy and very French Guanahani hotel - probably the best hotel on St Barts if spending cash doesn't give you a headache — they maintained an immaculate storm service by delivering freshly baked croissants and tall pots of coffee to all the bungalows (with both waiter and breakfast tray kept dry inside giant bin bags), but around midday we were invited to lunch on the

house in the swanky Bartolomeo restaurant. There on the terrace, greeting the guests in his shorts and T-shirt, was M Theze, the general manager, asking how we had fared and filling us in on the weather and damage forecasts. As, one by one, the dining room filled with suddenly gossipy residents, you half-expected M Theze to pray silence and inform us that, "This morning we found that Mme Dubois's jewel casket, containing priceless heirlooms, is missing. We believe it may have been stolen. Possibly, it pains me to add, by a resident. Fortunately, M. Hercule Poirot is staying with us and has offered to help solve the mystery. If you would be so kind as to answer a

few of his questions..." If you like your French Caribbean with a more West Indian tang, you can hop on a 12-minute flight to St Martin. The island is half Dutch naturally that is the less chic half.
 Although the West Indians in the main town of Marigot were celebrating July 14, French Independence Day, as zealously as the expatriate French, the two cultures

seem to co-exist rather than blend into a new ethnic identity. You can buy a bowl of bull-foot soup yards away from a café selling perfect French onion soup. But you can't find them both on the same menu. Again, the giant Match supermarket is identical to the one you would find in France — ask for a food shop and West Indians invariably direct you to Match, rather than to the stores that sell "our local type of food" — but there is also an open-air market which seems to sell abnost nothing but huge hands of plantains.

The Gallic flavour in St Martin is diluted, partly as a concession to visiting Americans, so it's perfect for those who prefer to sip their Frenchness weak. You never know whether to speak French or English; or to pay in francs or dollars, but every taxi driver and barman will convert your bill into either. At Nina's Kitchen, a friendly food shack-cum-cafe on Marigot's port. you order your fried plantain and goat curry in French, you pay in dollars and you drink Heineken lager (the most noticeable evidence

that half the island is Dutch). The beaches on St Martin are from the same textbook paradise as most others in the Caribbean, again with a French accent. At La Samanna — a quietly luxurious hideaway which was once a regular of bigshots such as Nixon, Ford and Onassis, but which (in July at least) seems blissfully bigshot-free - whitewashed cottages spill lazily

along the beach in a necklace. Tear yourself away occasionally for dinner in Marigot. Even better, drive a little further round the bay to a pretty stretch called Grand Gase, which is lined with colourful restaurants and bars and shacks

serving cheap barbecues. You can slope off from all this to the casinos and the shopping malls on the brasher, Dutch side of the island, which is frequented by the shopsholic passengers from the direct jumbo flights from Paris and Amsterdam. But then, why would

JOE JOSEPH The author was a guest of Simply

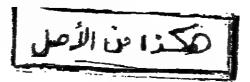
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Sirmingham	Сургия	04 Jul	14	29270	ANTIGONI	3T / ĤB	£790	£657	€265
Mirmingham	Cyprus	op Ju	14	29228	LEDRA BEACH	5T / 68	£754	£625	£258
flournemouth	Cyprus	25 Jun	14	29220	KTLANTICA BAY	AT / HB	£761	£631	£260
Bournemouth	Cyprus	23 Jul	14	29220	LEDRA BEACH	ST / 68	£802	£668	£268
Bristol	Сургия	25 Jun	14	29224	PHAETHON BEACH	AT / HB	£665	6545	E240
Bristol	Cyprus	13 Jul	14	29268	MARLITA APT	3T / SC	£529	£423	£213
Bristoi	Cyprus	17 Aug	7	29268	TASIA MARIS BEACH	3T / HB	£555	£446	£218
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Sast Midlands	Cyprus	21 Jun	14	29230	LEDA GONS APTS	25 / SC	£396	£303	£187
Glasgow	Cyprus	nut 80	14	29280	KING ALKINOOS	35 / SC	£436	£339	£195
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Gatwick	Cypres	15 Jun	14	29262	KING ALKINOOS	35 / SC	£431	£334	£194
Gatwick	Cyprus	15 Jun	14	29262	POLYCARPIA	45 / FB	£817	£682	£271
Gatwick	Cyprus	27 Jun	14	29260	MARLITAAPT	3T / 5C	£465	£365	£200
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urton	Cyprus	07 Jun _.	14	29214	PHAETHON BEACH	4T / HB	£649	£531	£237
uton	Cyprus	14 Jun	14	29214	LEDITA BEACH	ST. / INI	E709	6585	5249
Luton	Cyprus	13 Jul	14	29266	ANTHEA APTS	2T / SC	E482	£380	£204
Luton	Cyprus	13 Jul	14	29266	KING ALKINGOS	35 / SC	£522	£416	£212
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Cuba: The old communist warhorse may be creaking but there's no shortage of atmosphere to soak up

Old Havana appeals while the paint peels

or connoisseurs of de-cay there is nothing to beat Havana. Even the remotest corners of the former Soviet Union received a lick of paint as recently as 1989, but in Cuba time stopped in 1959.

The ancient Chevys and Plymouths trundling down the mostly empty streets aren't tourist attractions. They are the latest models, apart from a handful of ageless Ladas. The American vendetta hasn't made life easy for Cuba's inhabitants but that was more than offset by Soviet subsidies, Yet Cuba seems on its knees, You don't need to study trade figures: just stand in the street and observe the inertia.

It's still a fascinating place, even if it is crumbling. Buildings sumetimes collapse from ill health. Those still standing are laded and peeling. The benches lack slats, lampstands lack bulbs. Yet Havana is wonderfully grand, for all that. After the dinkiness of other Caribbean capitals such as Nassau or St Pierre, it's wonderful to walk along boulevards as spacious as anything in Mexico City.

Havana is filled with reminders of its former grandeur, such as the flamboyant Gran Teatro, the Art Deco-Baccardi building, the dramatic curve of shoreline called the Malecon. It's a city of boulevards, domed public buildings, harbour fortifications. villas. lofty palms. Bellas Arte excesses Along the Prado, the once

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TAPESTRY

CARIBBEAN SEA

fashionable shady promenade linking the Parque Central and the waterfront, marble paths and ornate stone benches are flanked by houses in styles from neo-baroque to Moorish and classical. By day, schoolchildren are put through their gymnastic paces. By night, sex tourists prowi Indeed, night gives Havana

medieval atmosphere. The streets are dimly lit, when lit at all. Figures lurk in doorways not threateningly, but because they have nothing else to do and it's usually too hot to round-the-clock buildings sites in Old Havana, joint-venture companies are racing to put up new hotels to accommodate the million or more tourists expected here in 1997. Prostitutes lurk near the hotels, but they now risk a long prison sentence, so their numbers have been reduced to a trickle.

To some extent Havaha's dilapidation is the source of its charm: so many old city centres elsewhere have been restored to death. But the underside of the picturesque in Havana is the privation of its inhabitants. Cuba must be one of the most

at the shops. What's for sale is what nobody wants to buy. The few markets have little to offer other than oranges, banamas and sweet potatoes. The patriotic slogans with which the country is emblazoned "Revolution with Fidel!"
"Che. Your Ideas Live On!") cannot disguise national failure. Cafeterias have no food, a beer costs a week's wages. If you have dollars, of course, it's a different story. Visitors flock into Old Ha-

vana. Its main thoroughfare, Obispo, passes splendid 19thcentury pharmacies, the impalazzi of defunct awful handicrafts notels. shops fall Cuban souvenirs are त्र्वांस्ड, bookshops, and La Floridita, a Hemingway haunt that is now Cuba's priciest restaurant,

Obispo emerges into the Plaza de Armas, a flower-filled square dominated by the magnificent Spanish-colonial mu nicipal palace and a mosted castle. Near by, the cathedral square is packed with souvenir stalls and roving musicians. No tourist escapes the Boguedita del Medio, the cramped bar (and overpriced restaurant) where Hemingway drank *mojitos.* I made my sole concession to the Hemingway cult and dutifully ordered mine: a refreshing blend of lime juice, mint, soda water. sugar, ice and rum.

There's greater calm south of the Plaza de Armas, where few restorers or hoteliers have rentured, where women with their hair in rollers eye the few passers by, where laundry sails across balconies with cracked shutters, and where decayed courtyards are home to dozens of families.

ot all of Havana is squalid. The once smart residential districts of Vedado and Miramar are still filled with villas and mansions, some derelict, others used as embassies or institutes. Insiders know that here you will find the best restaurants. shons and discos. There's little to see in the

way of historical monuments. but now, as 50 years ago, this, rather than Old Havana. is the place to live.

non-existent or hopelessly overctowded, the only practi cal way to explore Cuba is by car. Many visitors have to pay a bribe to obtain one. I had to collect my car a day earlier than I needed it - which comes to the same thing.

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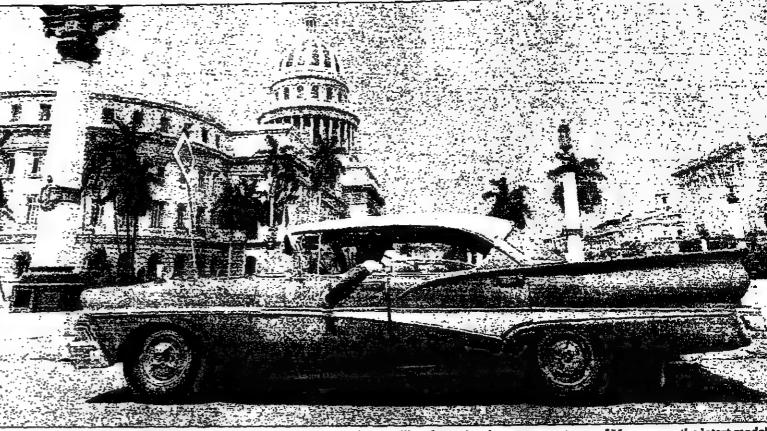
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fertile places on earth; you wouldn't know it from looking

Since public transport is





In Cuba, time stopped in 1959. The ancient Chevys and Plymouths trundling down the almost-empty streets of Havana are the latest models

CUBA FACT FLE

park overnight. Rental cars tend to be new Peugeots, a useful source of spare parts to Cuban entrepreneurs, so it's worth ensuring your car is still intact after sunrise.

I sped out of Havana past the eastern beaches and malodorous oilfields. It was amazingly hot: snakes slithered across the roads leading towards the old colonial town of Trinidad. A bus ahead of me drove over a pig. which squealed its last. A car whacked a goat into eternity. Considering how few vehicles there were on the road, this was quite a toll of valued

domestic animals. There followed three hours of mountain driving, mostly in total darkness over seriously potholed roads. A flat tyre up here and I would be spending the night in the car. But I eventually made it to Trinidad. I stayed at the tranquil Las Cuevas Motel, an attractive collection of hillside bungalows - I shared mine with an amiable frog - and, after dinner, wandered through the

Regent Holidays, 15 John Street, Bristol BS1 2HR (0117-921 1711) has a selection of Cuban tours, from £840 to £895

ans may be impoverished but

The next morning I set off

they live in style.

per person double occupancy, depending on time of year. The Grand Sierra nine-day tour is based on twin room with all meals, transportation, transfers and guides, and Cubana return flights from Gatwick. Cubana Airlines, 42 Conduit Street,

London WI (0171-734 1165) operates the only direct weekly flights from the UK. The return fare is £489. Other airlines flying from the UK to Cuba include Iberia via Madrid; KLM via Amsterdam and Curação: and Viasa via Caracas.

for Havana. With so few old town, where people promenaded through the square. operational buses in Cuba. The next day, I explored its everyone hitches. But the sigchurches (packed for Mass). nais can be confusing. Some cobbled lanes, and mansions women waving excitedly are converted into historical museprostitutes; others are merely trying to get to work.

I offered lifts at random, and ums. Along the streets, tall grilled windows allowed glimpses into spacious, wellventilated living areas with patios behind. The Trinidadi-

soon had a fine collection of old crones with medical afflictions. We bounced through Cienfuegos, its Prado a handsome but provincial echo of Havana's, and on towards the

vana, the skies opened - and a tyre burst. Changing the tyre. I saw a man approach through the downpour. He was carrying a machete and owned, he explained, the farm. nearby. That's nice, I thought. and awaited the robbery and murder. But he proved harm-

capital. Five miles before Ha-

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Reading: The Land of Miracles, by

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5511) and Sunworld (0113-239 3020).

(0171-240 2488).

less and helpful. My remaining day in Havana was devoted to cigars. I

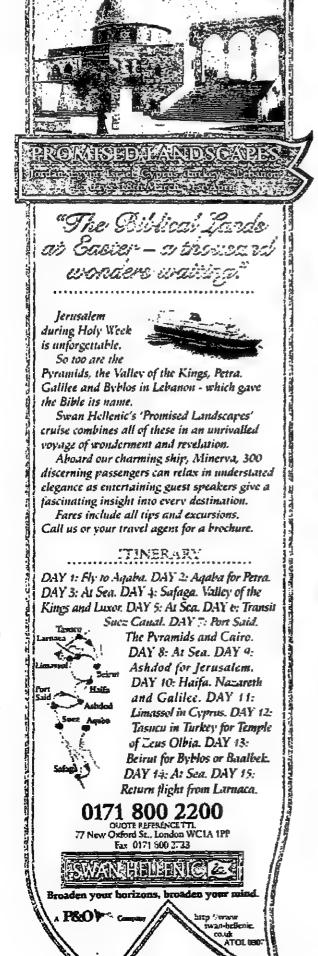
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which no visitor to Cuha should miss, and drooled as Montecristo No 2s and Partagas 998s were rolled before my eyes. Surprisingly, prices varied greatly, and were usually cheaper at horels than

at the factories. When Fidel eventually lets slip the reins of power, all bets, politically, are off. But it's fair to assume that this creaking old communist warhorse will be swiftly dismantled, the most gifted and cultured people in the Caribbean will once again be free to express themselves, the coastline will be ruthlessly exploited by mass tourism, empty highways will be jammed with tour buses, and those of us who had the fortune to visit Cuba in its final, sleazy, atmospheric days, will mutter: "It's not what it was," But life will be better for the Cubans, and that's a price that I will happily pay.

STEPHEN BROOK The author was a guest of









مكذا من الأصل

Britain: Magic wells, lakeside walks... Robin Neillands selects the best hotels for a Valentine weekend



Guests at Ynyshir Hall in Powys can enjoy superb food and even take the dog along

The ultimate bedside manor

BRITAIN'S festivals are increasingly organised Valentine weekends, with all affected by the extension factor. Christmas now lasts a fortnight. Easter can be extended to a week and St Valentine's Day, which falls on a Friday in 1997 nominated by the AA as "the Year of ty, a number of Britain's hoteliers have weekend of the year?

the smoothy extras: the welcome champagne, the four-poster bed, the red rose on the pillow and - in lieu of the blindfolded violinist - a tinkling piano. Some even have a touch of humour. Here are a Romance", honestly -- can be stretched to selection of romantic breaks -- but who a full weekend. Leaping at this opportuni- said they had to be restricted to one

ENGLAND

LANGSHOTT MANOR (01293 780680), a loth-century country house near Gatwick, propose a Liaison Dangereuse Valentine's Night for two. dinner, bed and breakfast, plus a gift of Dartington crystal, for £205. Dancing cheek-to-cheek can take place during the Valentine's night dance at the Runnymede Hotel on the banks of the Thames at Egham, Surrey (01784 430171). Extras include wine on arrival and use of the hotel spa. all for £75, per head, per night, dinner and dance included.

The Lake District is always romantic and the Rothay Garden Hotel at Grasmere (015394 35334) offers a Valentine package, with half-tester or four-poster beds, a basket of flowers and the obligatory champagne on arrival, plus chocolates and a full fivecourse dinner, for £86 per head per night. Romance is on offer at the Rampsbeck Country House Hotel on Ullswater. the prefect base for romantic strolls, right on the edge of the lake. Prices from £65 per night, including dinner; reservations from Crystal Britain on 0181-390 3515.

Those who prefer towns can spend a Valentine's Weekend in the romantic city of Chester where the Chester Grosvenor Hotel (01244 324024) offers a Romantic Weekend With Your True Love, starting with a champagne reception. followed by a dinner for two.

serenaded by a classical guitarist in the La Brassière restaurant - plus a heartshaped box of truffles. Prices from £70 per head, per night. for two nights.

Moving south, the Angel Hotel in Midhurst, Sussex (01730 S12421) is offering dinner in its excellent Cowdray restaurant on Valentine's Day. as part of a weekend package. at prices from Eb2.50 per person per night. A pianist will play and four-poster beds are available. The Hotel de la Bere, at Southam near Cheltenham (01242 237771) has a two-night Valentine's Break. with chocolates on arrival, pre-dinner cocktails, a candlelit dinner, champagne and a red rose on the pillow later. plus breakfast in bed next morning - and a 4pm check out on Sunday; all this at £199 for two people, for two nights. Cornwall can offer a week-

end at the Well House Hotel (01579 342001) at St Keyne near Liskeard, where the nearby well has magic powers; the first partner in a marriage to drink from the well will attain mastery in the relationship and rule the roost thereafter. Worrying, but well worth a Valentine weekend at prices from £240 per couple. for two nights, with Dinner for Lovers, bed, and breakfast, Devon romanties need look no further than beautiful Lewtrenchard Manor hotel at Lewdown near Okehampton (01566 78325b). An oak-panelled dining room, superb food, log fires, roomy bed-

rooms and glorious Devon in every direction and a special Valentine's weekend rate for two of £242.50 for two nights. plus a Valentine's dinner.

London's hotels are also rising to the challenge - or a price. Brown's Hotel in Mayfair offers a Valentine Weekend at \$790 per couple, with breakfast and one dinner. champagne, a dozen roses. tickets to a show and shopping "privileges" at shops like Charbonnel & Walker. The Franklin Hotel in Knightsbridge (0171-584 5533) - vnted London's Most Romantic Hotel by an American magazine for its beautiful rooms and setting in a tree-lined square offers a double room, champagne, and a Valentine's breakfast, for £200, while the Portobello Hotel in Notting Hill (017)-727 2777). which claims to have the sexiest bedrooms in London, is proposing a Wickedly Wicked Valentine's Weekend, with the

er's Breakfast and a "naugh-Valentine present for £185. Guests at the elegant Goring Hotel in Victoria can invite the plantst to play love songs on Valentine's night and since George Goring, that most amiable of hosts, adores sheep and features life-sized toy sheep in the decor, musical requests are invited with an ovine theme: It Had to be Ewe. Wool Aleet Again, and soon. Prices from £250 per night, per couple, include champagne and dinner and a toy sheep in every bedroom on request Details from the Goring Hotel on (U)71-396 9000).

WALES

There are superb walks along the banks of the River Spey from the Craigellachie Hotel in Banffshire which also has an award-winning chef head, for two nights, including dinner and Sunday lunch. Another artist. Rob Reen. welcomes guesis at the delightful Ynyshir Hall hotel, at Machyntleth. Powys (01054 781209). Lovers here will enjoy superb food and great walks. You can even take your own statutory champagne, a Lin-

dog. Swans, which mate for life and float on the hotel's private lake, provide inspiration at the Lake Country House hotel at Llangaminarch Wells, Powys (0159) 620202). This was voted one of Britain's most romantic Hotels by the AA. All rooms have a canopy or lour-poster bed and two nights' dinner bed and breakfast costs from E85 per head per night, includ-

ing champagne in the bedroom and a box of chocolates. SCOTLAND THE CRAIGELLACHIE HO-

tel, Craigellachie. Banffshire is just right for romanticallyminded couples, with a bar nights, including a special romantic dinner. Reserva-

> The Stieve Donard Hotel at (0)3967 2368h has a special Valentine's weekend

Edinburgh (01875 833696) can enjoy a Valentine's weekend serenaded on Friday night by the manager. Ken Chernoil. on his saxophone and enjoying a jazz concert on Saturday. Prices from 190 per head. dinner, bed and breakfast.

Regal Hotels (0345-334404) are offering special Valentine's breaks in 20 of their hotels. including the Athol Palace Hotel at Pitlochry in Perthshire (0)796 472400). Valentine extras include cocktails, complimentary champagne at bedtime and breakfast in hed. Valentine Break price £190 for two people for two nights.

NORTHERN IRELAND LOVERS seeking to affirm their love should head for the Celtic Love Stone in County Antrim. This Bronze Age stone hestows never-ending love on every couple who shake hands through the hole that pierces it. That done, head for the nearby Dunadry Hotel and Country Club at Templepatrick, the ideal base for a romantic Valentine's break at 192.50 per head, for mo

break, dinner bed and breakfast and the usual entertainment, while the old and romantic Lundunderry Arms Hutel 101574 8352551 on the Antrim ecast near the Giant's Causeway offers a bargain Valentine's break. Eus for two nights and a special dinner on February 14.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

THE MAYFAIR Hotel. St Helier, Jersey, is offering a two-night Valentine Weekend break including return cutamarun crossing from Wey-mouth from 20%, or by air from £115. Romantic joys here include a special dinner with dishes like Heartbeat Halibut and Cuddle-up Cheeses. If you can survive these and uncurl your toes, you can frolic in the indeor pool, Reservations: 01534 59529.



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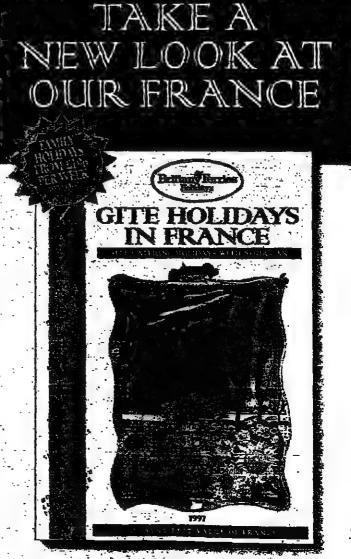
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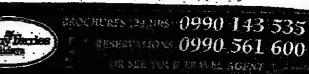


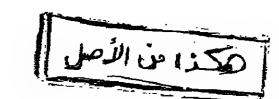




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APPARENT.

HOLIDAYMAKERS taking up last-minute bargains to long haul destinations such as the Gambia. Kenya and India, can face unfore-

seen health and visa problems.
The Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine advises a visit to your GP at least a month before departure to phase in the necessary vaccinations and malaria precautions. The school operates a Travel Health Advice Line (089) 172111; 45p a minute off-peak, 50p at other times).

The red tape involved in acquiring visas is highlighted by Holiday Which? Although many countries will issue visas on the same day from their visa section, almost invariably in London, to those prepared to come in person and queue, postal applications to such countries as India, China and Russia can take up to a month. If you fail to allow enough time to get your visa, you may risk forfeiting your "bargain".

The alternative is to pay £40 or more to a visa agency to procure it in time. For many countries, your passport must be valid for at least six, in some cases 12, months on the day of your arrival.

Austrian angles

A NUMBER of hostels located in some of Austria's main tourist regions that are suitable for international travellers are listed by the Austrian National Tourist Office in London (0171-629 0461). Prices range from £5.50-£14 per night B&B.

The small hostel at 1,600 metres (5,250ft) on Goldeck can only be reached by cable car, with skiing from the front door in the winter. and water sports on Lake Millstatt in the summer. The hostel in Feldkirch was originally used as a leper house in the 14th century, then offering short-term accommodation for the homeless, but was redesigned for its present use in 1985.

Rothelstein Castle in Styria is about 300 years old; it offers hikes in the mountains and has a ski lift at the front door.

Sephardic Spain

AN il-day fly-drive through Jewish Spain from Unicorn Holidays (01582) 834400): begins, in Madrid, then traces the impact of the Sephardic communities, which lived in the country until the end of the 15th

The route takes in Toledo, with its well preserved Jewish quarter

where there are two synagogues. one of which dates back to the 13th century; the walled city of Caceres: Cordoba, with its 14th-century syna-

gogue, and Seville.

The tour costs from £1.058 per person including flights, car hire, and B&B at paradors en route.

Bird island

CORSICA's spectacular mountains, meadows and maquis harbour numerous endemic plant and bird species, many of which can hopefully be spotted on Naturetrek's eight-day spring bird-watching and botanical tour (01962 733051).

Full-board accommodation is provided in mountain auberges in the hilltop villages of Evisa, and in the valley of La Restorica in the heart of the Corsican National Park from which holidaymakers set out on walks each day in the company of experts, binoculars at the ready. The price, with flights included, is £890.

Majorcan gems

WITH THE exception of a few overdeveloped resorts on the east coast and either side of Palma (itself a delightful little capital), the much underrated island of Majorca can provide some of the best holidays in the Mediterranean. Deep in the interior and tucked away in tiny hamlets, specialist Castaways (01737 812255) offers country manors and village houses, many with their own pools, and private transport from

the airport.

Dating back to 1242, La Reserva
Rotana belonged to the Majorcan family of the Marquis de Villalonga, and as well as a pool and tennis court, it has its own private ninehole golf course with a pro. A week's B&B (with flight) costs from £909 per person.

A simpler converted village house, the Hotel d'Es Puig mentioned by Robert Graves, in the late poet's hideaway of Deia, costs from £479 a week B&B with flights.

Sail away

TWENTY years after the muchloved Union Castle ships ended their 120-year long sailings to South Africa, the RMS St Helena, a working ship that carries mail and cargo, plus 128 passengers, will create the final voyage of RMS Windsor Castle.

On August 7 southbound and September 20 northbound, the St Helena will sail between Cardiff and Cape Town, via Tenerife, the Ascension Islands and St Helena, Napoleon's last home in exile. The three-week voyages to or from Cape Town cost from £2,865 per person

The magnificent walled city of Caceres is one of the sights on Unicorn Holidays' tour through Jewish Spain including the one-way flight. Details of this journey and other cargo passenger ships from Strand Voy-ages (0171-836 0363). Low (0171-584 2841).

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SPAIN

French National Tourist Office (0891 244123). Weekend breaks from Erna

Plans for 1999

WHAT WILL you be doing on December 31, 1999? Abercrombie & Kent (0171-730 9600) has issued a Millennium brochure. Each of its holidays includes a gala evening on December 31, 1999, and locations range from Jack's Camp in the Kalahari Desert to a cruise round the Galapagos Islands. A 14-night Great Africa Air Cruise will begin in Egypt, continuing through Zimba-

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iswe. Tanzania and Kenya, with a new year's celebration at Victoria Falls: it costs about £11,500. The millennium can also be welcomed at the Taj Mahal on a seven-night tour featuring the highlights of Moghul India, costing about £1,496.

Ski insurance

USA & CANADA

TAKING out insurance for a skiing holiday can have its pitfalls. For information on what to look for in a policy and the most common exclusions - snowboarding, for example. may not be covered - see Weekend Money, pages 46-47.

Taking the Mickey?

Disney on the Sunday last autumn that spanned both the English and French half-term holidays. The weather was overcast and there was little lustre about the Magic Kingdom.

The train from Paris was reassuringly quiet. Those heading for Disney were. surprisingly, mainly adults without children. Not so when we reached the entrance to the nark itself. There the crowds were thronging, the air filled with European tongues. Passage through the turnstiles was swift and efficient, but the crowds heading for the various rides were rush-hour thick. We needed a warming coffee. The nearest restaurant had queues (in the filter pens) of great length and complexin. We managed to get some coffee from an outdoor kinsk hut even then a 15-minute wait in the rain was required. For our ten-year-old son.

this much-postponed visit had been the source of eager anticipation. I could see he was going quieter and gloomier with the growing realisamost unlikely to fulfil its promise. He has been a railway buff since the age of four and wanted to ride on the track that circles the park. We tried the Main Street Station. Closed. We asked why. "Only for today", with a shrug of Gallic insouciance.

is other interest was the Autopia, a concrete track where children can drive small racing cars round and round. Also closed. We were not heartened to learn that the alleged refurbishment was necessary for our future enjoyment. The park's most sought-after attraction is Space Mountain. Not only could we not join the queue for it but the sheer press of people meant we could not even find where the queue began. What about the Mysteries of Nautilus next door? A roped-off section fed people into the filtering pens and a notice told us that from that point we could expect to wait 15 minutes to enter. However. that did not take account of

people waiting to enter the roped-up area. We sought cuidance from an attendant. Yes, he agreed, it was unlikely that waiting time for any attraction would be less than half an hour. Had we considered the Visionarium? The queue there was not really as bad as it looked. What was the Visionarium? He mumbled something about Michael Jackson on a huge screen We had paid Fr420 (£46) for

the day. We were expected to queue for up to an hour to gain entry to any attraction on offer. For most of the waiting time we would be subject to the wet autumn weather

We decided to ask for our money back and went to the "hospitality" desk in City



Hall. Our request was quietly but firmly stated. We had paid for a range of services that had been advertised. We had done so in the expectation that we could gain reasonable access to those services. We did not think a series of very long waits represented reasonable access; refund our money, please.

Not possible, we were told. it states on the back of the ticket that no refunds are possible. But we could not know that until we actually bought the ticket, we protested. A small crowd was listening as we reiterated our demand, adding that had Disney publicised the estimated waiting times we would never have bought the ticket in the first place. Our voices remained calm but we were insistent. Then a presumably even higher manager conceded Mickey's case. He credited us with the Fr420 and waved us off the park.

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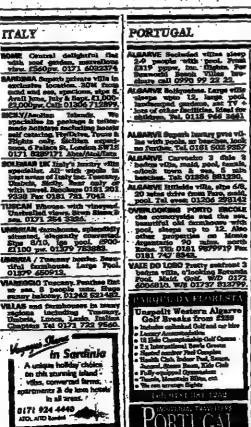
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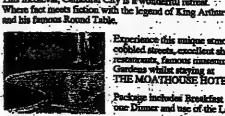
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Res. The unfortunate exchange of

queens has left Black's rook out of

play and now White's passed h-

29 14 Bt8 30 h7 Ne7 31 Rg3 Rc8 32 Nd4 a6 33 Nd3 Kc7 34 a4 Kd6 35 Rh5 Kd7 36 Rg2 Nc6

The psychology of this game is in-

teresting. If Black were to mark

time, White could not break

through, but with an extra pawn

Black feels he must still play for the

full point. In so doing he under-

A horrible shock. By this temporary sacrifice, White forces the win

of material. Black has been coast-

ing too long and now sees serious

Necessary to stop Nh6. The pos-

ition still requires technical finesse

from White to cope with Black's

By means of his subtle temporising

with the rook, White has finally

forced Black's pawns into a pos-

55 ... †3 56 Kd1 d3 57 cxd3 exd3 58 Ke1 Nc6 59 Re3 d2+ 60 Kxd2 Nd4 61 Re4 Nb3+ 62 Ke3 Kxg7 83 Rt4 Nc5 64 Rc4

army of passed pawns.

ition of weakness.

Black resigns.

fxg6 41 fxg6 Ke6 Rxh7 43 Rxh7 Rg8 e4 45 Ng4 Bf4

dangers lurking.

Bd6 38 Nh4 Ke7

40 Ng6+

estimates White's scope.

pawn becomes a force.

by Raymond Keene

THE Leicestershire grandmaster
Mark Hebden scored perhaps the

but 25... Qe5 would be stronger.
26 Qxf4+ Rxf4 Z7 Ne2 Re4 28 b3 Mark Hebden scored perhaps the best result of his life when he shared joint first prize in Britain's premier tournament at Hastings. He distinguished himself by beating both John Nunn and Michael Adams. Here is how he overcame Britain's number two player.

W: Hebden, B: Adams Hastings, December 1996 Wade/Pribyl Defence 2 e4 Nf6

Nc3 Adams is not noted as a theoretician, and frequently chooses off-

beat openings to foil his opponents' preparation.

Black's queen's bishop has been driven out of play and White also enjoys a spatial advantage. Yet White has been obliged to loosen his own pawn structure. It is on this that Black bases his hopes. 8 Bg5 Be7 9 h4 h5. White's threat

of h5 makes this necessary. 10 Bxd6 gxd6 11 Bh3 hxg4
12 Bxg4 d5 13 exd5 cxd5
14 h5 Bh7 x15 Bc1 Bh7 15 Rg1

16 0-0-0 Qc7 A plausible move which maintains the possibility of castling queenside for Black. After the game, however, 16 . . . Rc8 was recommended with the possible counter-attacking plan

o ... Qa5 and ... Nb4.

17 Bh3 Qf4+ 18 Kb1 Bf5. It is a shame to trade this powerful pishop which is aligned menacingly against White's king. Black's motivation was doubtless to avoid any sacrifice by White against eb and to undermine the defences of

White's pawn on h5.

19 Bxi5 Qxi5. Apparently winning the pawn on h5 but White saves it with a neat trick. 46 Nh6 Bxh6 47 Rxh6 Ne7 48 Rh8 Kf7 49 Rxg8 Kxg8 50 Kc1 d4 51 Rg1 b5 52 Rg4 f5 53 Rg5 bxs4 54 bxs4 14 55 Re5

20 Net 0-0-0, If 20 . . . Oxh5 21 Rg8+ Bf8 22 Rxh8 Qxh8 23 Nxd5 regaining the pawn with advantage. Black could play 20 . . . Rxh5, but after 21 Rg8+ Bf8 Black's pieces are tied down.

Rdg8 22 Rd3 Kb8 24 f3 Surprisingly, Black has won

White's d-pawn, which seemed well guarded, not the h-pawn. 25 Qh2+ Qf4. Natural enough

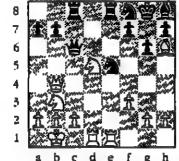
WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene THIS position is from the game Van Mil - Reindermann, Wijk aan Zee 1993.

Black has tried to preserve his king's bishop by retreating it to h8, but the drawback is that his king is now very constricted. How did White make the most of this? Send answers on a postcard to The Times, I Pennington Street, London El 9XN. The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society, which includes a free invitation to the annual dinner at Simpson's-in-the-Strand. The answer will be published next

Last week's solution: 1 Ng6+

Last week's winner: J. Townsend, Winnersh, Wokingham, Berks.



PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right), from The Strand Magazine (reproduced from Westminster Libraries, Sherlock Holmes Collection, Marylebone Library).

The cartoon will be printed . again next week with a caption from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Strand Caption 36, Weekend, The Times, l Pennington Street, London El 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, January 29.



HELPING A SMALL FAT CHILD BUILD A CASTLE



with the board of Morgan Grenfell

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by P. Barlow of Dunoon, Argyll

WORD WATCHING By Philip Howard

CAPITOUL

a. Head of an Etruscan column . b. A Toulouse magistrate c. Edinburgh

CORDYL a. A newt

b. A warming drink c. The dilated heart

CAROTEEL a. A fruit basket b. A Byzantine charioteer

c. A gondolier of Ravenna CONTCOPOLY

a. Selling in paper cones

b. A clerk c. A bantam with hairy feet

Answers on page 19

then passed Five Clubs doubled. The full deal, from the Premier league match between Hackett and

results and you pick up

≜AKQ8765 ♥K86 ◆Q87 ♣-

Not vulnerable against vulnerable,

your partner deals and opens One

Spade. You have methods to dem-

onstrate a strong spade raise with

club shortage.
(i) What would you bid?
(ii) If you bid a direct Four Spades,

your left-hand opponent bids Five

Clubs and your partner doubles.

At the table, Andrew Robson

thought the balance of probabilities

was that his partner had psyched

and so bid only Four Spades. He

Calderwood, is shown below:

Do you pass or bid?

Dealer West North-South game IMPs

⊕J43 ... ¥QJ92 +A10548 ⊕3

± 109 ♥10743 ° +KQ876

> **+K62** - +AJ109542

VAS

** *AKQ8785

Tony Forrester (West) had tried an old-fashioned psyche, At first it seemed he had scored a fine result. Five Clubs Doubled went three down for 800 to East-West. At the other table East opened Four Spades after two passes, and Jason Hackett had the sense to pass on

YOU ARE playing in a teams event. You have just had three poor up 100 points from Four Spades. However, the opponents called. the tournament director (TD), and

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

objected to Robson's actions. There's nothing wrong with psyching. ... as long as it contains the same element of surprise for the: psycher's partner as it does for the opponents" (a quote from the English Bridge Union's brochure on the subject). But the TD ruled that Robson's bid of Four Spades,

was "fielding". That implied that he and Forrester had "an unauthorised and therefore illegal — understanding". I don't see it that way: the opponents also knew that, at the state of the match and the prevailing vulnerability. East-West would be quite likely to try to mix it up. But TD's often interpret this law in a restrictive way - they rule that you are only permitted to assume your partner has psyched if: there is direct evidence that he has

The TD cancelled the board, and gave the other team 5 IMPs. If that was going to be the ruling. Robson was unwise to bid Four Spades - if it got a good result opposite a psyche it wouldn't stand, and if his partner had a genuine spade opener he might miss a

To pass Five Clubs Doubled is clearly the right action - if West has a minimum but genuine One Spade opener with strength in clubs, you expect to get a good penalty out of Five Clubs, and you may fail in Five Spades.

■ For the Macallan International Pairs final results, see the Sport section.

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott

FEW THINGS seem quite as rewarding as getting Toy Story's pull-string cowboy Woody to do his intoxicating dance of delight around in a circle. His jolly itterbug is a magic moment from the Disney cartoon and it is also caught perfectly, acting as a scrumptious donkey's carrot, when you complete any of the 17 levels of Disney Interactive's Toy Story CD-Rom for Windows.

Mirroring the plotline of the film. Woody et al come to life in their magical world when adults aren't around. Woody, favourite toy of young Andy, falls out with the newcomer in toyland, Buzz Lightyear. After their initial spat. Woody

help of the other toys, take on evil Sid, the toy-torturing boy who lives next door, then make it back to the safety of Andy's bedroom. The graphics in the game are superlative — comfortably large and uncluttered. After helping Woody to jump, duck, dive, bounce and lasso his way across each level,

and Buzz make up and, with the

storyline to the next challenge. Woody and Buzz are joined at various times by the Green Army

a few pages of text then advance the

tler Rocky Gibraltar. Rex the dinosaur and others. Collecting stars along the journey

Most levels usually take two or three attempts to complete successfully and there is never a dull moment. Toy Story CD-Rom is intended for players aged eight and up and, thanks to great clarity in the instructions, even the youngest of users could easily install it. This CD-Rom version is an

adaptation of the Toy Story game first released for 16-bit consoles, such as Nintendo's SNES. A similarly adapted Disney title is Donald in Cold Shadow, a platform game starring the duck and now out on Windows CD-Rom, having originally ap-peared as the 16-bit console game

Donald in Maui Mallard. With rich, colourful graphics, the action is fast-paced as you energetically guide Donald through 23 levels in his bid to save an island paradise from destruction. The settings, which swim with detail, include the bottom of the sea, magical underworlds, volcanoes



ing grounds where you learn how to morph Donald into a mighty Ninja warrior. It is also aimed at

seemed a great idea on paper but Men platoon, heavyweight wres- and the all-important Ninja train- although the end product looks

dreamy, the platform action engages poorly. Mickey's Wild Adventure borrows a mish-mash of scenes from Mickey's more memorable film credits, like Steamboat Willie, The Mad Doctor, Lonesome Ghosts, Moose Hunters and The Prince and

settings, gameplay is often pedantic while Mickey's regu-

for Top Tips with computer users in mind. Entries poured in thick and fast. There were

Psion Siena organisers, were L Mactavish of Ronney Marsh, Kent, S. Welch of Stockport, Cheshire, and N. Salter of Thame, Oxon. Their tips have already appeared in earlier columns. Our overall winner is Gary Mason of St Albans, whose masterful Top Tip appears

He wins an AST Advantage 9306, worth £2,799, which features a 200 MHz Intel Pentium processor, 32 Mb EDO Ram and 3 Gb hard-disc plus a package of starter software. The Psion Siena palmtops, worth £229 each, have a full I Mb memory and boast comprehensive organiser features such as diary, telephone book and

Thank you to all who entered Cyberspace Twenty-Nine. By way of consolation to those of you whose entries were felt by the judges to be worthy of honourable mention, we Microsoft catalogue.

son of Winchester and, coming soon, readers will be able to win a top-of-the-range Polaroid digital camera.

TIMES TWO

No 1000

ACROSS

1 Make accessible; speak more freely (4.2)

5 Refund of excess (6) 8 Attention; notice (taken) (4) 9 Remember its Fifth (8)

IO Level polished (6) 12 French cierical title, eg Liszt's (4)

15 Points, levels of being less good (13) 16 Labyrinth (4)

22 Ship; liquid holder (6)

23 Caught sight of (6)

17 Money of Portugal (6) 19 Capital of Chile (8) 21 Greet; falling stones (4)

DOWN

3 Show agreement; Cain's

5 Wander (4)

speech) (9) 7 Digit; sounds like haul (3)

14 Inspiring horror, disgust (8) 18 His conversion celebrated today; --- Jones, dance (4)

serve (3) 21 Jump: beer ingredient (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 999 ACROSS: 1 Dabble 4 Send up 8 Shindig 10 Probe 11 Skip 12 Marauder 14 Foundling 18 Audition 20 Dame 22 Steam 23 Militia 24 Demure 25 Crayon

DOWN 1 Desist 2 Bailiff 3 Ludo 5 Emphasis 6 Drood 7 Poetry 9 Guardroom 13 Customer 15 Chastly 16 Massed 17 Peram 19 Dream 21 Blur

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2 Inflamed-lung illness (9)

land (3) 4 Bat in emergency (baschall)

6 Pompously high-flown (in

11 Egg dishes (9) 13 Subsistence level (9)

20 Champion; point-winning

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Wix cosec[Ws]

(No of degrees in a radian) x (10AH)

(Mg, Mc) x T x (10AR) 01

(Base of Napierian logs) x (IOAG) + J x Q cosec[Bd. Km. (2 x I)s] x (IOAJ)

cos[(HAR)d, Zm, Xs] x (IOAC) - R

((X + B)AR) x R

20 (I x R)AR + R x S

23 tanj Dg. Sc. Lec x (10AC)

Ε

25 cosec[Vd. Cm] x (10AJ) + DA(U - N - T) 28 YATI + S + sin[(T x A)d] 30 AxZ+CxP

(OAR) x T

(WAJ) + E

cot[Em] - C

The Clue answers undergo PROVECTION (indicated in the shaded squares), ie the last letter of each answer is moved to the beginning of the next. The title, similarly treated, is "Pass

The winner is S. Shabankareh of Leatherhead.

The five runners-up are: J. Dale of Abingdon, Oxfordshire; A. Moore of Sheffield; P. Perriman of Thetford, Norfolk; J. Parker of Esher, Surrey and G. Rowlands of Ashford, Kent.

Join Buzz Lightyear and Woody in Disney Interactive's Toy Story CD-Rom

players aged eight and up. While Disney has released several titles for lesser games consoles, so far it has only released one for the Sony PlayStation - Mickey's Wild Adventure. This must have Despite the familiar spread sheet.

lar linking sequences, unlike Woody's in Toy Story, are instantly forgettable. Our Cyberspace Twenty-Nine competition asked you

so many excellent tips that judging the competition to find one overall winner and three runners-up was no mean feat. Our three runners-up, who win

will continue running more of your Top Tips for the next few weeks and for each one that appears we will send a software title from the Staying with competition news, a jeroboam of Moet & Chandon champagne is on its way to our end of year quiz winner. Richard Gib-

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Pd. Qm, Rs denotes an angle of P degrees. Q minutes and R seconds of arc, Pg. Qc. Rcc denotes an angle of P grades. Q centesimal minutes and R centesimal seconds: there are 234.5678g: Pr denotes P radians — there are II radians in two right angles. PAQ denotes P raised to the power of Q. sqrt[P] denotes the square root of P: sin[P] etc denote the trigonometrical functions of angle P.

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12

tanjUd, Km, Zsj x (10AC)

21 sin[Xd. Ym, Ys] x (10AC) + Q x D

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(UAR) x L

CAY-Y

taniC x (Mg, Mc, Xcc)j x (10AC)

 $(OAG) \times J - sqrt[K + V] \times (10AG)$

175g, 53c, 36cc) x (IOAJ)

(T x R/G) x (IOAG) - X

((BAJ) + E)/R + (DAR)

G x sec[(D/Z)r] x (10AC)

DxWxWxR+W

 $tan[(V \times W)d] \times (IOAV) + E$

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ΠΛΥ

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The Hong Kong govern-ment, Britain, and the United

posals and Mr Patten gave a

warning that after July they

Mr Tung spoke forcefully in

"The issue is not about free-

dom of expression and free-

Mr Tung said he was look-

dom of assembly," he said.

could be legally challenged.

same thing.

Hong Kong's next chief defends curbs on rights

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

THE truce, barely five weeks old, has ended between the Hong Kong government and Tung Chee-hwa, nominated by Peking to be chief executive

Even some of Mr Tung's backers and sections of the press usually sympathetic press to him said yesterday that his proposals to curb the freedom to demonstrate and to belong to international political groups would alarm local

Last night Mr Tung disclosed the names of 11 members of his 15-strong inner cabinet or Executive Council for the post-handover period. While generally pro-Peking. they will be approved by many here as being neither tycoons nor political hardliners. Most have served on Peking-oriented committees.

ing figure like Mr Tung, who until early this year served on the Executive Council of Chris Patten, the Governor, Mr Tung's appointment to the council was seen as building links to Peking. Mr Tung has appointed nobody who will speak for Hong Kong's demo-crats or independents, the most popular political group. The gloves came off yester-

day after Mr Tung's hard-hitting speech the night before, supporting recommen-dations by a Peking-appointed Hong Kong legal group. The proposals were denounced by Mr Patten as a blow to the very heart of the Bill of Rights.

ing for a balance between individual rights and the Two specific recommendations, which are likely to be ratified soon by the National needs of the community. He said that police approval was necessary for demonstrations People's Congress in Peking. would make it illegal for a in many Western democracies and that forbidding associpolitical grouping here to have ation with foreign political links to a similar organisation parties would prevent

> Many local newspapers which normally support Mr Tung called for him to think again, and Allen Lee, chair-man of the pro-Peking Liberals. an early champion of Mr Tung and a critic of Mr Patten. said that Hong Kong people had accepted the Bill of Rights and would be unhappy if its central guarantees were re-There has been no problem in our community since the enactment of these ordinances," Mr Lee said.

estabilisation".

Mr Tung's new cabinet contains two members from Mr Patten's Executive Councii. Raymond Ch'ien, a banker, and Rosanna Wong, the housing authority chairman. Mr Patten praised these appointments.



New image: Olly the kookaburra, Syd the platypus and Millie the echidna have been drawn for the 2000 Games

Olympic honours for outback outsiders

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

ed the cartoon characters to

"Internationally the kanga-

sell the Australian Olympics

roo and koala are well known and widely used," Matthew

Hatton said. "This was our

chance to showcase some of

our other exotic wonders."

to the world says no.

AUSTRALIA'S love affair with the kangaroo, the koala and the emu appears to be over. The three quintessentially Australian symbols, which have done so much to sell the country's image to the rest of the world, have effectively been told to hop it.

When Sydney hosts the Olympic Games in 2000, three new mascots will epitomise the land down under.

Yesterday they were revealed as Syd. the duck-billed platypus. Olly the laughing kookaburra and Millie the echidna. An echidna - spiny Even Bob Carr, the Premier of New South Wales, who ant-eater - is, like the platydetests anything remotely kitsch, accepted that the charpus, an egg laying mammal. Olympic organisers who had acters were "funny, friendly the audacity to ditch Austraand thoroughly Australian". The new mascots have also lia's three most popular icons? received the approval of the International Olympic Com-Naturally, the man who creat-

mittee's executive board. But the IOC has a questionable track record in these matters. Many felt that the committee should have taken a tougher stance with the Atlanta organisers who introduced Izzy, their mascot, at the closing ceremony in Bar-celona as "Whatiai". Predictably, nobody knew the

At least the names of the three Aussie mascots make sense Syd for Sydney, Millie for Millennium and Olly for it could have been worse

Among other ideas considered by the Australian Olympic organisers were a koala bear dressed as a pole vaulter. a person wearing an Olympic ring costume, and a pair of smiling running shoes.

School for scandal thriving in Japan

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

A NEW term is about to start at the "Sexy-Up School", a vocational college with an

unusual curriculum. · The college, in Osaka, west ern Japan. offers courses in the sex industry, a relatively thriving sector of the stagnant Japanese economy. Despite its provocative name, reflecting a common Japanese belief that mangled English words are cool, the Sexy-Up School has a

serious and practical purpose. "Many girls are attracted to the sex industry by the good money, but they have no sense of style and no manners," said Yasuo Taniyama, the principal. "Our aim is to instil a

feeling of professional pride." He believes many of today's young women are too casual in their dress, too sloppy in their speech, and lamentably ignorant of the traditional courtesan's arts of pleasing men. So the curriculum is rigorous.

Students must attend 30 hours a month of courses that include general etiquette, the art of conversation, make-up, the present place of the sex industry in Japanese society, the status and income of the adult video actress, and the importance of proper sexual performance.

Ninety-three women who raduated last year quickly found jobs in hostess bars. striptease theatres, adult films, or what are delicately known here as "fashion health salons". In contrast to the labour market as a whole, where unemployment is rising, there appears to be no shortage of opportunities in the sex industry.

Enrolment figures for the new term are high: in a country that sets great store by academic qualifications, a di ploma in sex industry studies confers a certain status. But not all graduates will hang theirs on the wall.

"Not all our students intend to become professional fuzo-kujo (literally, women in the public morals trade)." Mr Taniyama said, "We also have secretaries and housewives who want to learn how to improve třeir sex appeal."

One graduate with a fullname was Mari, added that she had not told her boyfriend about her studies. "I wanted to learn how to express the sensuality within me. And I've achieved it. My boyfriend finds me more stimulating company now,"



Two girls in the Ginza, Tokyo's nightlife centre

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Protesters wear dunce caps in Hong Kong yesterday, symbolising victims of Chinese political repression

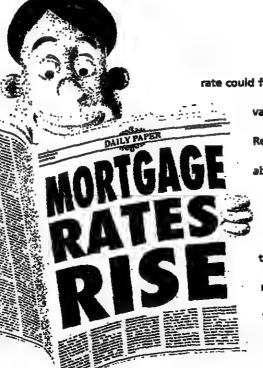
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Suharto whitewash likely as poll war of paint pots heats up FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN JAKARTA

central Java, the Indonesian heartland, demonstrates how farcical the nation's sixth general election, due in May, will be. For all the pledges of greater democracy, armyhacked one-man-rule looks set to continue in the world's fourth biggest country.

Central Java's authorities have been painting telegraph poles, public buildings, tences and even trees canary yellow, the ruling Golkar party's colour. At night, the opposition fights back with white paint. symbolising neutrality.

The raiders risk arrest but insist they will not stop. The. pettiness of the paint war shows how limited are the opportunities to express dissent in Indonesia, where radio and television services, and political gatherings, are stricty controlled and elections have one overriding purpose: to perpetuate the reign of President Suharto, 75. It is all but certain that he

will be a presidential candi-date in 1998, health permit-

office he exploits the powers of the state. Campaigning for National Assembly seats on May 29 is already under way unofficially. The main issue is economic disparity. The rich-poor divide is huge and widening, threatening more social unrest.

200 million people believe he

rules by divine mandate - he

supposedly has wahyu, the gift

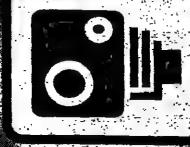
underclass say that to stay in

power - but the urban

Mr Subarto's three decades in office have brought improvements in life expectancy. literacy and living conditions, and he has quelled racial and ethnic conflicts. But tension is close to the surface. Golkar's 829 election candi-tlates include four of the

President's six children, relatives, and the wives of generals and senior government officials. Mr Suharto's friends and relatives dominate big business. Resentment of such nepotism runs deep and raises fears of instability in a post-Suharto era.





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AN AVERAGE of 15,000 Americans write to President Clinton every day but only those bearing one of two magic numbers can be certain to reach the Oval Office.

Toom and placed under the President's door. The faxes that spew into the small cubbyhole next to the Oval Office are swiftly rushed to his desk. When Carolyn Staley, the preach-

These "Dear Bill" letters are part of a private epistolary brains trust that Mr Clinton has established with his oldest friends and earliest allies

At a time when Washington is obsessed by questions of access to the President, particularly from Asian donors to the Democratic Party, this small cadre of loyalists provides perhaps the most telling insight into how this President tests the waters in his nation.

They are the chosen few who have been given a secret nine-digit post code and a personal fax number, the only group of American citizens who can honestly say they have a direct line to Mr Clinton and his policy.

Any letter bearing the secret "zip" code is quickly removed from the daily pile in the White House post

room and placed under the President's door. The faxes that spew into the small cubbyhole next to the Oval Office are swiftly rushed to his desk.

When Carolyn Staley, the preacher's daughter raised in the house next to Billy Clinton, wanted to

rebuke the President last spring, she silver sooon in the mouth." sent a fax. Mrs Staley, now deputy Another who stays in contact is David Leopoulos, a chum from elementary school who is now a director of the National Institute for Literacy, said the Clinton budget would reduce spending on adult literacy to below the levels of the travelling computer software salesman. He will send as many as three Bush Administration. Within hours faxes a week from his laptop on subjects from the North American Free Trade Agreement to what he she had a call from a budget analyst, and adult education programmes are now scheduled to has heard on radio talk-shows receive a \$95 million injection in this around the country. year's presidential budget.

year's presidential budget.

Earlier this month, when the Supreme Court was hearing arguments in the sexual harassment suit brought against Mr Clinton by Paula Jones, a former Arkansas state employee, Mrs Staley sent condolences to her old friend.

"At some level this is killing him,"

Philip Jamison, in his class at Georgetown University and a Vietnam veteran, told the President that normalising relations with that country was a good thing. Mauria Spell, the only other non-Catholic at St John's parish school in Hot Springs, Arkansas, is another correspondent: Tommy Caplan, an author who sometimes works on

speeches, is one, too.

"He contacts them afterwards by phone late at night and even his closest advisers don't know who he has talked to. He has to feel he is getting all the information before making a decision," said one White House aide yesterday.

House aide yesterday.
"It's all part of the Zist-century outreach. If Al Gore becomes president he will probably have his own e-mail and personal website."

Poring over these missives, between 100 and 500 a week, is said to be an indispensable part of Mr Clinton's private time, the three to four hours that have been built into his daily schedule by Erskine Rowlee Chief of Stoff



Only a privileged few can be certain that their letters will reach President Clinton in the Oval Office

Canadian trappers cash in on fad for fur

FROM RICHARD CLEROUX

A SALE of furs opened in Toronto yesterday and is expected to provoke protests by animal rights activists around the world. More than 100,000 pelts are expected to be sold this weekend after a return to nonularity for fur garments.

popularity for fur garments.
Alison Beal, of the Fur
Institute of Canada, said the
demand was being driven by
fashion designers and the
fashion press in New York.
The sudden resurgence of

The sudden resurgence of popularity of furs, which had been in steady decline for the past ten years, is attributed in large part to the prominence given furs in Vogue magazine and other fashion publica-

More than 80 per cent of the furs sold in Toronto this weekend will find their way to New York.

Only a year ago fur sales were so depressed that the annual June fur auction in Montreal was discontinued, ending a tradition that went back almost 200 years.

The new-found popularity is a bonanza for Canadian trappers, most of whom are aboriginal people living in remote areas of northern Canada for whom there is little else by way of work.

In poor years, a beaver skin will fetch \$80 (£49) for a trapper, double that for an ordinary fox pelt. But when furs are rare the market can fluctuate and even a modest beaver pelt can fetch \$200.

Republican joins Cabinet

Washington: Former Senator William Cohen of Maine was sworn in as Defence Secretary yesterday to become the first Republican to serve in a Clinton Cabinet. He succeeds William Persy.

succeds William Perry.

President Clinton said the Senate's 99-0 vote to confirm Mr Cohen "sent a strong signal of its intention to work ... in a bipartisan spirit to preserve and enhance our national security. Bill Cohen is the embodiment of that spirit." Mr Cohen said he looked forward to serving "to a new century with clarity of purpose". (AP)



Cohen: "a strong signs

Pope attacks media for 'unwholesome' message

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE Pope yesterday accused the world's media of mocking religious believers by portraying them in a bad light and bombarding the young with "unwholesome images", ratiter than reinforcing moral values in the run-up to the millennium. He also said he sympathised with the "sufferings of divorced people", but said remarriage after divorce

constituted "moral disorder". In a message for World Communications Day, the Pope said the global explosion of information technology had given people "an ever-growing choice of sources ... but the greater the choice, the harder it may be to choose responsibly". It was increasingly difficult to "protect one's eyes and ears from images and sounds which arrive through the media unexpectedly and uninvited". The media reached families "including very young children ... What way

do the media point to? What truth do they propose? What life do they offer?" Parents found it especially

hard to guard their children from unwholesome messages, the Pope said, and it was "shocking how easily advanced communication technologies can be exploited by those whose intentions are evil". The Vatican has shown growing concern over sex and violence on television, and pornography on the Internet.

The Pope said many people in the Third World aspired to new technology, but were concerned about "domination of the media by so-called Western culture... Media products are seen as in some way representing values that the West holds dear ... The truth may well be that the foremost value they really represent is commercial profit."

Programmes which dealt with religious or spiritual

aspirations or were morally uplifting and helped people to lead better lives were decreasing. "It is not easy to remain optimistic about the positive influence of the media when they appear either to ignore the vital role of religion in people's lives or to mock

religious belief."

Speaking at the end of a Vatican conference on the family, the Pope said the Church could "not be indifferent to the painful problem" of divorce and remarriage. The task of the Church was to deal with family disintegration through "pastoral care consistent with Christ's teaching".

The Pope's guardian of doctrinal purity, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, yesterday also upheld the ban on the ordination of women. But he surprised observers by decreeing that those who advocated women priests were guilty of "an error" rather than "heresy".



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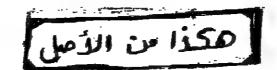
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Death toll rises in Algeria as extremists step up campaign

Zeroual: pledge to

THE terror sweeping Algeria claimed more victims yesterday, with the assassination of

a local government official in Algiers," the killing of five people in a city suburb and the murder of 15 more just outside the capital. There were unconfirmed re-

ports that 22 others had their throats cut by Muslim extremists in the provincial town of Benhamdane. Such atrocities have become almost a daily occurrence in latest upsurge of

More than 200 Algerians have been killed in bombings. village massacres and other

of the holy month of Ramadan on January 10. In the latest massacre, 15 civilians from a single extend-

ed family, including ten women, were killed on a farm in Ali Baba on the outskirts of Algiers. Some were beheaded, others had their throats cut, The bloodletting reflects an increasingly brutal policy by the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the most militant of the fundamentalist groups fight-

backed Government. Breaking a long silence President Zeroual of Algeria, a former general, was due to

address the nation last night and was expected to emphasise his determination to fight terrorism and discuss a forthcoming election.

Just two weeks ago government ministers were claiming that the extremists had been vanquished, but the latest killings stands in stark contradiction to recent government claims that it faced only "residual terrorism". An estimated 60,000 people have died in the carriage since 1992 when the military moved to cancel elections which the fundamentalists were poised to win. This week the country's

leader, speaking in Rome. warned that Algeria was spiralling into total chaos and called on the United States to appoint a mediator to try to end the bloodshed. Hocine Ait Ahmad accused France, Algeria's former colonial ruler, of callous indifference to a death toll he put at 100,000, and he urged President Clinton to select a peace negotiator who might "unblock the situation". The Algerian Government, however, is likely to reject any attempt by the Americans to

Leading article, page 27 Magazine, page 20



Morocco launches drive to quell Islamic students

ng to topple the military-

By Tunku Varadarajan

ALARMED by an epidemic of Islamic fundamentalism among university students in Casablanca, and unnerved by the daily violence which scars neighbouring Algeria, the Moroccan Government has launched its most determined crackdown this decade against Muslim extremists.

Up to 100 student militants have been detained in the past few days at

the Muhammad V University in Casablanca, the main breeding ground for Islamic radicals. The university has been in a state of ferment since the New Year, with boycotts of classes and confrontations with police. With about 30,000 stu-- the majority with few prospects of employment — it is a fieldom of the banned al-Adi wa al-Insan (Justice and Spirituality) party.

The Government's crackdown

began on January 10, when police arrested three leaders of the Union Nationale des Etudiants Marocains, charging them with threatening public order, attacking policemen and damaging public property.

On Tuesday, the three were sentenced to prison terms ranging from one to three years by a tribunal in Ain Choc in Casablanca, after a trial which their lawyers described as "totally in breach of basic legal procedures".

There are at least 33 other student activists awaiting trial. The arrests followed several days of student strikes and demonstrations in Casablanca, ostensibly in protest against poor housing and transport. Yet the protests - which coincided with the seventh anniversary of the house arrest of Abdesslame Yassine, Justice and Spirituality leader - were also used to air opposition to the regime of King Hassan

Greek who found 'Alexander's tomb' barred by Egypt

A GREEK archaeologist who claimed to have found the tomb of Alexander the Great has had her licence to excavate in Egypt revoked.

Liana Souvaltzi announced in 1995 that she had found the tomb at Siwa oasis in northwestern Egypt, but Greek and Egyptian archaeologists dised her claims.

Ali Hassan, the secretary general of the state's Supreme Council for Antiquities, said that not one of 22 specialists had a good word to say about the methods of her mission. which was suspended in October pending an inquiry.

The system was one of the worst in the field of archaeology. The experts studied it for six hours and at the end none. of them said even 'Give her a chance'. They said it has to be stopped," Mr Hassan said,
"The report of the inquiry was one of the worst I have

ever seen, on the methods, on the recording, on photogra-phy, on jumping from one place to another as if hunting," clares the result of his excaya-

tions before reaching the end This is not archaeology. this is political propagarida. It after six years of extensive restorations. "I can say thatwithin a few months the Sphinx ... will not be in intensive care any more," he He also announced plans to open 20 new museums, and said Egypt should not try to force countries such as Britain. Germany and the United

has nothing to do with sci-

ence." Ms Souvaltzi's ream

had broken up the inscription

it presented as evidence that

the tomb was Alexander's,

moving the pieces around to

try to suit their reading of it, he

Ms Souvaltzi called the Egyptian charges "wretched lies" adding: "I reject all

decisions and conclusions,

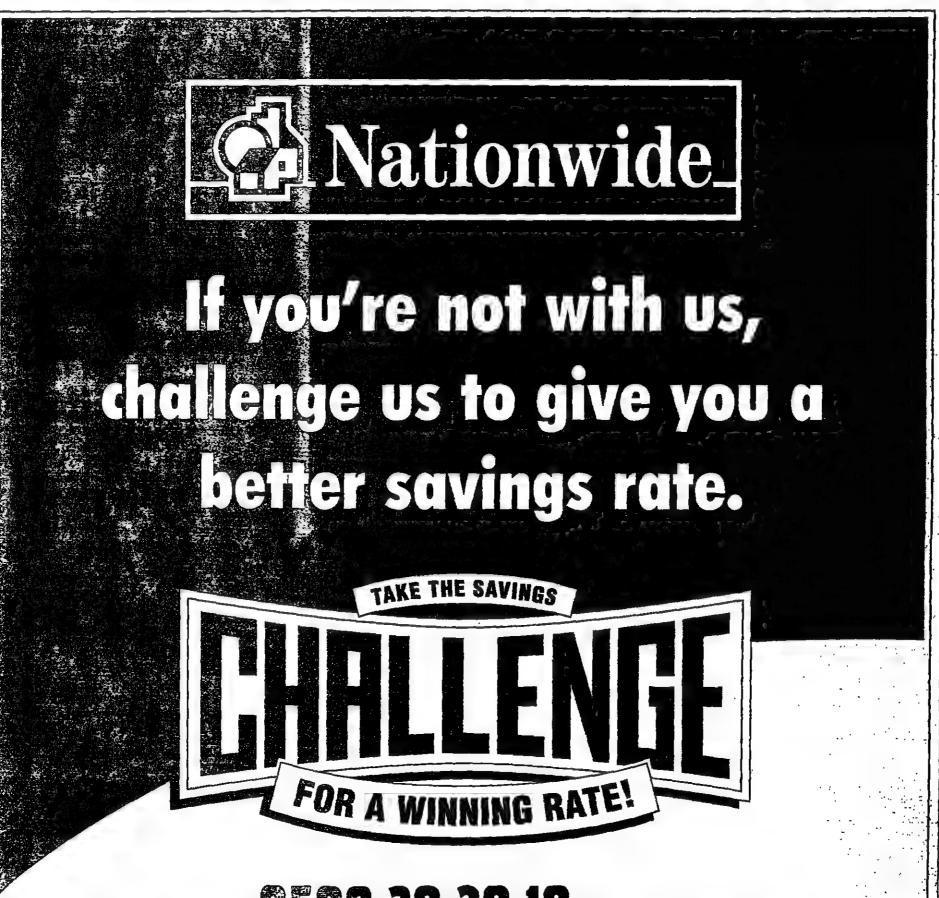
and my revelations will be made through the courts."

Meanwhile, Mr Hassan has

announced that the Sphinx at

Giza is on the road to recovery

States to hand back Egyptian relics. "As long as we do not have the facilities to ensure these pieces can be well displayed ... it would be better to_ keep these treasures in the museums of the world to ensure they get as much good publicity for Egypt as pos-



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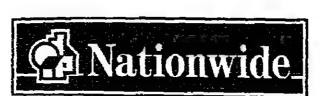
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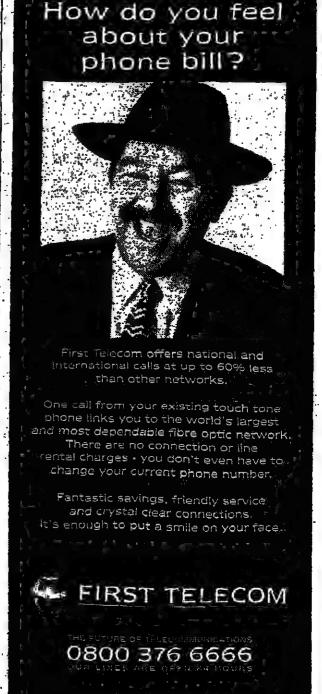
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Steffi Graf's father given jail term for tax fraud

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE father of Steffi Graf, the world's top rated woman tennis player, was freed pending an appeal after being sentenced yesterday to three years and nine months in jail as part of a German crackdown on celebrity tax evaders.

Peter Graf, who coached and managed his daughter for many years, looked shaken as he was led out of the courtroom in Mannheim, southwest Germany.

Graf had been charged, along with the family financial adviser, of steering some £14 million of Steffi Graf's sponsorship earnings into foreign accounts and thus illegally shielding around £7 million from the German taxman.

Judge Joachim Plass said there was no evidence that Steffi Graf herself was actively involved in tax evasion. One witness had reported a family meeting attended by the tennis player, in which tax shelters had been discussed. But Steffi

who was questioned by inters last year, denied sanity of the meeting and suessed that all financial affairs were run by her father. The player was on a flight to Tokyo as news reached her of the verdict. She had been recovering in Melbourne from injury and illness after her shock defeat in the fourth round of the Australian Tennis Open last Sunday.

"One of the most important

thing for us and the Graf family is that the court wants prosecutors to close the files in the case of Stefanie Graf," said her father's defence lawyer. Friends said the player was relieved that the case was over but was concerned about her lather's probable return to jail. The defence team had pleaded for a suspended two-year sentence and a fine, a move that would have effectively freed Graf, who spent 15 months in pre-trial detention. Unless an appeal is upheld Graf will have to return to prison for at least 14 months. Taking into account the pre-trial arrest and a likely remission of sentence, he should be free

The family financial advis-

next year.



Peter Graf waits for the verdict in a Mannheim court yesterday. He was convicted of illegally shielding about £7 million from the German taxman

failed vesterday for two years and six months. He, like Graf, was freed on bail pending

The trial has left some critical ouestions unresolved. Graf understood from local politicians that he had a degree of protection. He believed, too, there was an understanding that tax payments would be reduced to a symbolic minimum to encourliving in Germany. The ZI-year-old player is regarded as had been slow and remiss in their dealings with her father, Germany's premier sports saying that this had been star not only because she is a taken into account in giving consistent winner, but also Graf a much softer sentence herause of her evident modesthan that demanded by the ty and self-control, prosecutor

The trial had a symbolic But the public standing of Steffi Graf, and the determvalue for Germans who are ination of the authorities to trying to calculate how much they will lose or gain from tax keep her resident in Germany reforms and who are comwas not pursued with gusto by the investigators. The judge noted that the tax authorities plaining about heavy sur-

of Eastern Germany. Tax inspectors enraged Boris Becker recently by searching through his financial papers while he was away over Christmas - prompting a threat to leave the country. Other targets have been television and football stars who live in Belgium to benefit from the lower rate of income tax. ☐ Vienna: The father of

Gerhard Berger, the Formula

ence more than ever. One of Steffi's rare public break-

downs during the investiga-

tion was caught by camera in

a German television docu-

mentary. Steffi was describ-

ing how her father watched

her perform in the French

Open on a prison television

trial accused of swindling German bank out of DMI5 million (£5.6 million). Johann Berger, 62, denies the charge. Prosecutors told the Innsbruck court that Herr Berger and another man tricked the Landesgirokasse in Stuttgart out of the money on the pretext of setting up a wood plant in southern Germany, state television said.

nude model and was happy to be photographed with politi-cians and jet set figures. The

court heard yesterday about

the shadowy, private side of

Graf's unhappy life: the sui-

cide of his mother when he

was a teenager, blackmail attempts against him, a ner-

yous breakdown and alcohol

His bargaining chip with

politicians and the Inland

Revenue was always that he

could move the Graf family

abroad, like racing driver

Michael Schumacher - and

A verdict is not expected

MORLD

Serb deal takes TV off air

Belgrade: Serbian Socialist hardliners and opposition leaders in the city of Kragujevac struck a deal yesterday over control of the local media to avert more violent

Under the deal, valid until a ruling by a court, Radio Kragujevac will broadcast only entertainment pro-grammes. The television sta-

tion will stay off air. But minutes later the main board of President Milosevic's ruling Socialists slammed the Zajedno coalition for "destabilising" the country. (Reuter)

Superbowl stunt woman killed

New York: Laura Patterson, 43, died when she hit the ground as she practised a bungee jump for American football's Superbowl in New Orleans between the Green Bay Packers and the New England Patriots. Her husband and sister were among about 750 people who saw the tragedy. The bungee jumping part of tomorrow's event has

been cancelled. Preview, page 54

Carolina to vote on 'racist' flag

Washington: A debate over keeping the Confederate flag flying in South Carolina is to be settled by a referendum in November, the state's House of Representatives decided (lan Brodie writes). Alone among the states, South Carolina still flies the flag - a symbol of racial harred to American blacks — above its State Capitol in Columbia.

Train joy-rider makes tracks

Moscow: Russian police are searching for a railway joyrider in the far eastern settlement of Tynda who boarded a tocomotive on the Baikal-Amur line and set off. The locomotive was found abandoned the same evening a few miles up the track. Police say they have no idea of the juy-

Doting parent awarded ice creams for a good shot across sofa

By ROGER BOYES

PETER GRAF, father of one of the most successful woman tennis players of modern times, was yesterday sitting behind the high walls of the family villa in Bruehl contemplating a broken career.

The gulity verdict on tax evasion charges marks a watershed not only for the 58year-old former used car salesman — who lived for and through his daughter Steffi but also for Germany. For Germans, Steffi was the model of a sports heroine and many had hoped that she would also have a model family.

ed relationship of a tennis father with a tennis daughter



Peter Graf embraces his daughter after she retained her Wimbledon title in 1993

often falls far short of the sentimental ideal. Steffi was not unique in this: Mary Pierce (who had a father banned from the courts). Jennifer Capriati and Monica

Seles all had entwined and difficult relationships with their fathers. Tennis fathers start off as coaches - Graf had his daughter knocking balls over a sofa at the age of

three, 50 consecutive good balls earning an ice cream -and frequently end up marketing their offspring. Graf sold, or at least hired out, his

the 27-year-old had long ago learnt to live without the daily

ship slowly changed as Steffi grew up; she gained in strength as she collected set. He was tense and excited Grand Slam titles (22 so far). and everyone in the cell block was as nervous as Graf. When while he grew weaker, dependent on large infusions of she won, the whole block cognac, tranquillisers, flattery started to bang their cell walls and his daughter. Many on in celebration. Narrating this the tennis circuit were surin a cheerful tone — ever the prised when Steffi continued to play well during her father's 15-month pre-trial ordeal. But the fact was that

supervision of her father.

Early retirement

High standards of living

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Regular meals

things in life

The good

sponsors, kept the tourna-

ment money flowing in and decided he knew better than

the experts how to shelter her

cash from the gaze of the

The balance of the relation-

Normally Steffi Graf only cries in public out of frustration or physical pain. Graf liked parties, had a

brave, dutiful daughter - she suddenly broke down in tears.

Germany would lose its heroine and her money. This threat failed to work its magic. Last night some in the Graf circle suggested that the fami-ily — when the sentence is

well-publicised affair with a served — may indeed leave.

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Football-crazy minister tackles stick-in-the-mud bureaucrats of the art world

Master of culture shock

ONE MAN is increasingly appearing on Italian television as the front man of the ruling nine-month centre-left coalition to soothe growing anxieties over Europe and the economy: Walter Veltront, the boyish, bespectacled Deputy Prime Minister and former Communist.

At 41, the former journalist and film critic is Italy's youngest Cabinet minister. Much given to open-neck buttondown shirts, he is a child of 1968 and even wrote a book called The Dream of the Sixties. He went to film school in Rome his home town - after making his first film when In; it was shown, somewhat to his embarrassment, on prime-time TV this week. Author of a best-selling study of Robert Kennedy, he is working on a novel set in the unlikely world of professional swimming Uilly Cooper. take note) for which he jots down notes during meetings. He is also an ardent football fan and amateur player.

As editor of L'Unità, formerly Communist Party paper and now the

ROME FILE by RICHARD **OWEN** Democratic Left (PDS), he removed the

hammer and sickle from the masthead, launched a lively second section modelled, he says disarmingly, on The Times - and boosted circulation by offering Italian film classics on video.

Married with two daughters, he has gradually shed his youthful Marxism, although not his idealism, and remains an ardent Catholic close to Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini, the left-leaning Archbishop of Milan.

When the former Communists entered Government in May for the first time since the Second World War. Signor Veltroni became deputy to Professor Romano Prodi. the Prime Minister, but insisted on the Culture portfolio to "bring fresh air" into a stagnating cultural est-

Queues for loos mar Rome

with up to 40 million visitors expected. Franceson Rutelli, the Mayor, is growing worried not only whout the lack of hotel norms and parking spaces but, even more crucially, about the lack of public toilets. An inquiry has revealed that Rome has only D public loos, of which only three have facilities for the

Most tourists quickly get used to the local custom of using the toilets in cafes

upmarket institutions, such as the Cufé Greco and Babington's Tea Rooms, both near the Spanish Steps, complain that the queues for their loos are often six

Facilities at Rome's Leonardo da Vinci airport at Fiumicino are equally inadequate, and officials have fearful visions of millions of millennial pilgrims besieging the airport's small number of hard-to-find lavatories.

tried to co-ordinate theatre, the fine arts, archaeology, music and sport before," he said. Although Italy's artistic heritage is a major source of revenue, less than half of 1 per cent of the national budget goes on restoration and maintenance of treasures Pompeii. Visitors often find

museums or classical sites open only at limited times, with little information and few modern techniques to bring the past alive. "Many do not even have a decent bookshop," Signor Veltroni says. Corriere della Sera this week accused

him of being interested mainly in "photo opportunities and Big Events". enjoying the company of Italy's glitterati and going off to Paris to promote Franco-Italian film productions while Italy's übraries and monuments fall apart.

Signor Veltroni retorts that in less than a year he has boosted financial support for "heritage sites", partly by encouraging private sponsorship and diverting lottery funds to the arts. He has drafted a law allowing museum entrance tickets to be sold through news kiosks and tobacconists, lowered afternoon cinema prices, and made the Roman forum free on Sundays.

Attendance figures at Italy's top 20 museums, headed by Pompeii and the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, have risen by an average 8 per cent. But he admits that the bureaucracy governing Italy's arts is "very entrenched, very conservative... they are suspicious of innovations that undermine their own powers." Many officials were aghast, he said, when he asked Bill Gates, the computer tycoon, if his Microsoft company would like "to get involved in the Italian arts".



Walter Veltroni at a PDS conference: a partisan of the turbulent Sixties, he has shed his youthful Marxism but remains an ardent left-wing Catholic

Leaders poll low vote for dress sense

SIGNOR VELTRONI'S open-neck shirts did not win many marks this week from Romeo Gigli, the leading fashion designer. Signor Gigli was asked by the newspaper Corriere della Sera to rate the dress sense of Italy's leading

The fashion guru decreed that an open-neck white shirt looks fine with a jacket, but added: "You can only really get away with it if you are very good looking".

There were low marks, too, for Silvio Berlusconi, the leader of the Opposition, media tycoon and former Prime Minister, who prides himself on his

appearance.
Signor Berlusconi, the designer said,
wears too many tight-fitting, old-fashioned double-breasted suits, and even
when he is in casual gear he still looks

formal and over-dressed.

As for Umberto Bossi, the flery and disheveiled leader of the separatist Northern League, Signor Gigli said "the man is a walking disaster — he wears wests and grey flannels on the beach, and his suits are terrible, as are his glasses and his watch. He even wears a key ring on his belt".

The only politician to emerge un-scathed from the designer's scrutiny, apart from the elegant Foreign Minister, Lamberto Dini, and the immaculate President. Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, was Autonio Bassolino, the dapper Mayor of

He was praised by Signor Gigli for his beautifully cut grey suits and blue shirts "which match his distinguished allvery. hair and the blue of the Naples skies".

Moscow wary as Chechen rebel chief fights election



FRUM RICH \KD BEESTON IN MONCOW

SHAMIL BASAYEV may have traded in his combat fatigues for a smart business suit, but there is no disguising Russia's most wanted "terrorist" as he makes his final push for victory in Chechnya's first presidential elections.

With only three days left before the breakaway republic goes to the polls, the young, charismatic and lethal candidate has proved that he can run an election campaign as efficiently as a military one. Because there are no reliable

opinion polls, it hard to say which of the two front-runners is ahead. Aslan Maskhadov, the former prime minister and Chechen defence chief, who

support base. However, due to security concerns and a bout of flu. he has halted his campaign and handed the initiative to his brash, bearded 32year-old former subordinate, who is campaigning energetically and with some success. Experts believe that if Mr Maskhadov fails to win outright in the first round, Mr Basayev could well beat him in the second.

Mr Basayev, who became the darling of his countrymen after he spearheaded Chechen forces during their capture of Grozny, has wasted no time in converting his battlefield success into political assets. There are real fears in Chechnya and Moscow that if the former hijacker, hostagetaker and guerrilla commander becomes president, the war-ravaged nation may again find itself in

Chechnya are very distressing to us," said a senior Kremlin source. Basayev is making all the running. There is a very real chance he could win. Many people feel he is the only man tough enough to run the

This month he branded his opponents "a bunch of crooks" and promised, if elected, to turn the country into an independent Islamic state and enforce strict law and order in a nation notorious for its

His law enforcement message is ironic, given that Mr Basayev is largely responsible for creating Chechnya's poor reputation. After graduating from a land management international fame in 1991, after

commander of a Chechen unit lighting alongside Muslim separatists against Georgian forces in the breakaway region of Abkhazia.

When Russian forces launched their assault on Chechnya two years ago, Mr Basayev established himself as the most daring and ruthless field commander among the rebels, a point reinforced after 11 members of his family were killed in Russian

In June 1995 he launched his most infamous operation when he led ahostage raiding party into the south-ern Russian town of Budennovsk, and left more than 100 people dead. Although he rejects the label

"terrorist" and insists that he regrets school in Moscow, he suddenly were the loss of life and wants to live

Glacier threatening ski hamlet in Italy

FROM REUTER IN MILAN

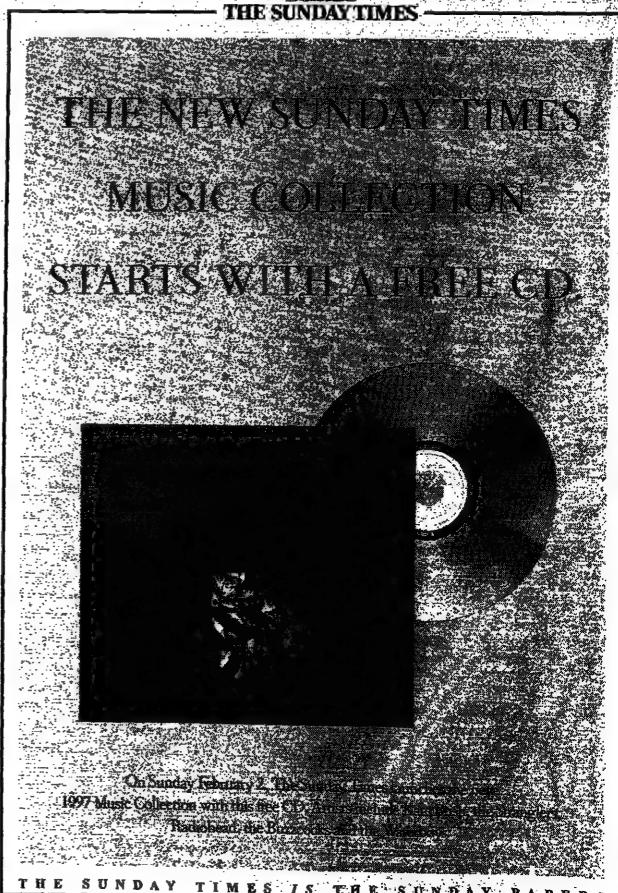
MOUNTAIN bamlet the glacier as it moves forthreatened by a glacier near the Italian ski resort of Courmayeur has been evacuated. Ferdinando Derriard, the Mayor of Courmayeur, said that about 3,500 cubic frof ice had broken off the nose of the giacier on the Grandes Jorasses peaks in the Mont Blanc massif, northwestern Italy, "There's still the main part which has to break off," be said. "It's there balancing. We're waiting for it to fall."

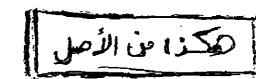
Experts say the form of ice, bout 230 ft high and 330ft

Oscar Taiola, head of Courmayeurs avalanche comozitee, said: "We don't know (when it will fall - but it's The glacier is 7.5 miles from

the pistes of Cournaveur, and authorities say the popular ski resort is not threatened. However Planpincieux, a mountain hamlet in Val Ferret, the valley which an avalanche caused by the falling ice is expected to hit, has been







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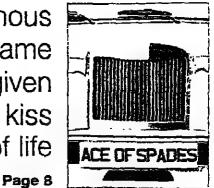
200



Ford's fastest gets a new lease of life Page 3



Famous name is given the kiss of life



SATURDAY JANUARY 25 1997

Driving's future: the great debate

ultimately become the curse of the 21st century. The machines that once liberated the well-off have become essential for millions. They have also sentenced the present generation to the frustration of neverending journeys that would astonish the pioneers of Britain's biggest single industry.

Concerns about ill-health caused

through pollution; noise, nuisance and destruction caused through

road building and the relentless consumption of natural resources through making and fuelling cars have made transport a major issue for the millenium.

Today, as a General Election looms, CAR 97 launches a great debate over the future of motoring. Squaring the circle between mobility and strangulation has become a conundrum for all the major parties, and a platform for the Green lobbyists who were once regarded

as tree-dwelling extremists. The car has allowed millions to We love our cars, but traffic levels are becoming insane. This week, the Government's agenda. Next week, Labour's reply

travel unheralded distances for business and holidays cheaply and quickly. But the rapid growth in motoring — from 10 million cars in 1967 to 25 million now — has condemned us all to neurosis over pollution and time wasted in traffic iams. Even the chairman of Vauxhall, one of the country's big

"enough is enough" in one of the opening shots of our debate. Yesterday a Bill obliging local

authorities to set limits on the growth of traffic went before the Commons, Below, Sir George Young, Transport Secretary and "bicycling baronet" sets out why he also remains a "minister for motorport Spokesman, Andrew Smith, will spell out his party's policies. The transport debate is no longer a contest between speed-freaks and

obsessive Greens, it is one that confronts every mother, father, child, teacher, grandparent, em-ployer... and anyone who wants to breathe clean air and travel with

dedicated to the motor car in all its wonderful variety, from the techno-logical wizardry that makes driving so safe and simple for so many, to the glorious achievements of racers and record-breakers who provide so many of our modern heroes. Britain's motor industry today employs a million people and provides export earnings of well over £10 billion a year.

But the industry which has shown such brilliant ingenuity over the century now faces its biggest

growth without suffocuting in its own fumes. The problem facing Britain is that millions rely on the car because there is no viable alternative. The Lex Report on Motoring this week revealed that eight out of ten Britons could not live without their cars. Only 36 per cent said they would use the car less if public transport was better.

After 100 years, what is the future of the car? We have invited the experts, now let us know what the ordinary motorist thinks.



to many people, I am known as the bicy-cling baronet. I am very food of that form of exercise and transport. But too often this sobriquet leads people to assume that I neither use nor favour other methods of transport.

Let me explode this myth right away. In last year's Green Paper on transport, I made it dear that as a country we need to switch the emphasis to improving public trans-port and to reduce the impact. of road freight. This we are steadily doing through the increasing success of rail privatisation and through grants to encourage more goods to go by rail rather than by road. However, none of this poll-

cy, which commands widespread support, should be interpreted as an attack on the car. It is in precisely this area that we distinguish ourselves from the wilder voices of the Labour Party and fringe my vernents

Let me explode another myth - the supposed slash in the roads budget. The plans for spending dedicated to the roads programme were actually increased this year to enable us to sustain a main programme of around £6 biltion, which will mean an average of three to four significant new starts a year.

While the national road network is largely complete, there remain some bottlenecks and blacksnots which restrict the vital flow of our traffic, adding to congestion and pollution. We also need to make better use of the existing network and to look after it better as an important contrib-utor to the nation's wealth.

As Conservatives, we are always concerned to maintain the right balance between the needs of business and the preservation of the environment. As steady growth in the economy continues, so we need investment in the infrastructure to carry that growth with its extra business activity, coupled with greater demand for goods and services, But we do not seek to cover our

country in concrete. Let me give a couple of examples: first, on planning for major roads. At present, the way trunk roads are planned can make it difficult to take into account regional priorities and local needs, or Transport Secretary Sir George Young argues cars should not be attacked, but alternatives encouraged

alternatives such as improvements to other forms of transport, or traffic management measures. The Green Paper proposed a system which would make it easier to take these considerations into account. There has been overwhelming support for this.

Secondly, we have to accept that in many cases it is simply not possible to expand the road network in line with demand: the impact on the environment would be too great. This particularly applies in towns and cities. So we have to decide how to divide available road space between all who would like to use it -cars, pedestrians, cyclists and lorries. Should part of the road be given over, for example, to a bus priority lane, which will speed buses, but may slow cars? Should cycle lanes and longer phasing for pedestrian crossing lights be allowed. which again will benefit cyclists and pedestrians at the expense of motor traffic?

Should parking places be re-



Sir George Young: cars can improve the environment

PRICE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS (EXCLUDES VAT AND ROAD FUND LICENCE)

served for forries and vans to load and unload rather than

car parking? The answer will vary from place to place. That is why the Green Paper has put great weight on the need for local authorities to be responsible for decisions. We need to get away from the idea of a Big Brother" state that can decide every transport question.

As a Conservative, I am not anti-motorist. The massive increase in car ownership since the Second World War, powered by the design and engineering triumphs of manufacturers like Jaguar and Ford, has been a consequence of both higher living stan-dards and higher aspirations. I see the car as a vehicle for increasing choice, freedom and opportunity.

Through owning a car. people can travel at a time they want to a destination of their choice by any route they wish. Wider car ownership has meant a huge expansion in the availability of employment, particularly for disabled people, who would find it a real struggle to use public transport. Car ownership has also given people in rural areas greater acress to shoos. while allowing those in towns more options for leisure

ars are often business tools. Just think how plumbers and carpenters would manage if denied the opportunity to use cars for carrying their equipment. Many mothers with children rely on cars to get home their heavy gro-

Nowadays, many people seek to deride cars as polluting machines, taking up ever more space in our small island and using up valuable natural resources. But with the advent of more sophisticated engines. recyclable materials, and cleaner fuels, I believe cars can play a part in improving our environment for future generations.

After all, by 2005 air pollution levels from road transport are set to fall to less than half

their 1990 levels in towns, as a result of tighter controls on vehicle emissions and tough measures to enforce them. It is difficult to point to many other industries that have done so much to reduce their impact on the environment.

We also need to encourage alternatives to conventional petrol and diesel vehicles with ower emissions. The Chancelfor had this aim in mind when he announced in his Budget last November tax incentives for less polluting lorries and diesel fuel. This will encourage lower particulate emissions from diesel vehicles, and also the development of alternative

fuels, such as gas power. So I say to those puritanical doom-mongers who wish to attack the car, think of what you would be denying people. At a stroke, you would take away their freedom to travel under their own steam to any destination for business or pleasure; you would isolate villages from their market towns, and you would deprive millions of the simple pleasure of driving.

I am certainly a bicycling baronet. But I remain a motor-

Maker calls for car ban

NICK REILLY, chairman and managing director of Vauxhail, which sold 283,000 cars in Britain last year, says cars should be banned from city centres and public transport improved to ease congestion, Vaughan Freeman

writes. He has even instigated a study looking at ways that would enable white-collar staff at Vauxhall's Luton headquarters to work from home one day a month, to cut the number of cars on the

town's roads. He says he would also like to see staff leaving their company car at home while they make the trip to work by bicycle or on foot. While not going as far as offering staff a company bicycle rather than a Vauxhall Vectra, Reilly

Continued on page 5

The Hijet van. Small businessmen swear by its class-leading payload, cargo capacity and fuel economy. It's also been known to make our rivals swear. Not only is the Hijet Britain's best-selling microvan, but it's also scooped the 'What Van' Best Microvan award for the 4th successive year, Phone 0800 521 700 or post the coupon for a brochure. You'd be #!?*! ?#**! not to.

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Slapping the names of alchohol sellers on the side of underfunded forces' vehicles is a shortsighted disaster that only encourages criminal drivers

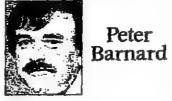
Sponsored police panda to drunks

week that chief constables in the 43 police forces in England and Wales are allowed to raise I per cent of their budgets from the private sector. This means that we now have sponsored police vehicles. A van belonging to the Avon and Somerset force, for example, carries the name of Thresher, the drinks retailers, and a mobile police station run by the Northumbria force is sponsored by Newcastle

The Metropolitian Police Special Constabulary has cars which carry the name of Harrods, and 14 vehicles have been given to the police in Lancashire by companies which include BA. Norweb. Group 4 and the AA.

Humberside police even have a horse called Alchemy dunated by

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



BP, whose logo appears on the horse's blanket.

By now some readers may have concluded that this story is one of my occasional wind-ups. But once again, truth out-stranges liction, and I assure you that a drunk taken to a mobile police station in

Gateshead could indeed find him self encouraged to have a few more bottles of Newcastle Brown. These are rather strange devel-

opments, to say the least of it. A perfectly good case can be made for companies helping to fund the police, for they have as much of an interest in fighting crime as the rest of us. But although I per cent of budgets does not sound much. that actually amounts to £70 million throughout England and

Some critics of the scheme fear that he who pays the piper might call the tune, bringing a risk of corporate sponsors having some sway over police activities. I doubt that, but I worry about the nature of some of the sponsorship in relation to road safety.

Thresher and Newcastle Breweries happen to be established

drunk drivers is sending a mixed message if it drives around in vehicles paid for by brewers? this society who will use any

companies that do good business

meeting a public need. But what they sell is alcohol, the deadliest

enemy of road safety. Surely a police force intent on catching

excuse to behave badly and a police vehicle advertising alcohol is just the ticket for them. One wonders what our chief constables would regard as unacceptable, if they regard drinks sponsorship as acceptable. How about motorway patrol vehicles emblazoned with adverts for performance cars? This posits the absurd spectacle of a boy

racer in an Astra being pursued up the MI by a police car encouraging him to buy something even zippier. Of course none of these contro-versial matters would arise if we had a police force paid for properly out of the public purse. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, has sanctioned advertising on police

vehicles because he sees that as a

• LONDON

way to fill the gap between what the police need and what the Government will give them.

That is a short-term gain over a long-term loss. If we are going to cover police vehicles in slogans, let them be messages not adverts. "Keep your distance" and "Take a break" are among those that should be on police cars, and the taxpayer ought to be funding them (though I suppose Kit Kat might be persuaded to sponsor the latter).

he age of the male chau-vinist driver may at last be coming to a close. The annual Lex Report on motoring, out this week, shows that the proportion of men who think they are better drivers than women has fallen from 35 per cent in 1988 to 24 per cent last year And, among drivers of both sexes.

31 per cent think women are better than men against only 8 per cent nine years ago.

So at last the driving populationis starting to acknowledge what the insurance companies have known for years, though from the insurance standpoint the word "safer" is more appropriate than "better". Or do these words amount to the same thing, when lives are at stake?

New police priorities may mean the end of a crack team, reports Tony Dawe

Top car-crime squad faces axe

sponsible for recovering millions of pounds worth of stolen cars in the last few years is set to be disbanded despite an unexpected rise in car crime.

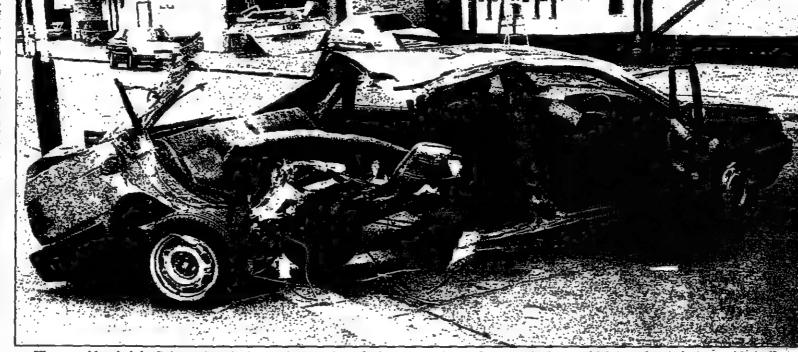
The stolen vehicle squad covering South West London. including such high crime districts as Brixton and Streatham, is likely to be a victim of a plan to transfer officers to other duties in areas of the capital which are supposedly in more need

The decision will leave the Metropolitan Police area. home to more than two million vehicles, with just 20 specialist officers to handle car crime.

The South West London squad, led by Det Sgt Peter Russell, has pioneered free car clinics for motorists who feared they might unwittingly have bought a stolen car or patched-up wreck. It has played a leading role in combating the increasing number of "ringers" on the roads stolen cars which have been given a new identity with licence plates, vehicle identification numbers and chassis numbers from scrapped

vehicles. The squad's latest coup has been to track down this month three new BMWs stolen from a dealer in Belgium and given new registration details in Britain. Officers traced one to a motorist who had paid £25,000 in cash for a 525i

without realising it was stolen. One of the squad's most famous cases, featured in The Times, involved a Volkswagen Passat which was almost forth in half by an accident yet reregistered six months later. Russell and his team discovered that the man who had hought the wreck had scrapped it then re-registered it, quoting the same licence and chassis number and



The squad has led the fight against the increasing number of "ringers" on the roads — wrecked cars which have been given new identities

planned to report it stolen so that he could make a claim.

Two of Russell's six-man squad have already been moved to other duties and the remaining members are awaiting transfer.

One senior Scotland Yard ufficer critical of the moves told Car 97, "Car crime appears no longer to be a central part of the Metropolitan Police Commissioner's policy. It will be increasingly difficult to find an officer trained in car crime and who can spot a ringer. Ultimately it is the public who

The Met will be left with one central vehicle squad giving the capital the same number of specialist officers as the Greater Manchester and West Midlands forces, which are responsible for fewer crimes.

Greater Manchester has a high-profile, high-tech squad which has cracked down successfully on "ringing" while the West Midlands motor vehicle squad comprises 15 officers and three vehicle examiners and is backed by

divisional auto-crime teams.

ondon's cutbacks come as the Association of British Insurers reports an increase in claims for car crime after years of improvement. Last year's British Crime Survey reported a slight drop in both number of stolen vehicles and thefts from vehicles but still discovered that 500,000 had been stolen in 1995 and 2.5 million people had been the

A Metropolitan

spokeswoman insisted yesterday that no final decision had yet been made about the future of the South West area stolen vehicle squad. She said that the resource allocation formula. as it is called, will ensure that the "right number of people with the right skills are

ocated in the right places". Approximately 100 of the 372 officers from the South West area who will be relocated have moved already. Divisional commanders will have the responsibility of deciding the most appropriate way of reducing their numbers. However their priority will be to preserve front-line policing by constables as emphasised by Sir Paul Condon, the Commissioner, in his strategy for policing London in



Spotting a sophisticated ringer takes specialist skills'

Carrot and stick for novices

Mitsubishi drubs Dakar

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ MITSUBISHI took the honours in the Dakar Rally. finishing with six vehicles in the top ten places, wiping out opposition which included Toyota, Nissan and Isuzu. The 15-day, 5.300 mile rally across the toughest terrain in Africa was won by the Shogun fourwheel-drive based vehicles.



Shogun-based winners

A SPECIAL tribute from Car 97 to Edward Newson. Britain's oldest driver, who died this week aged 105. It was this publication that told the story of a man who had lived throughout the first century of the motor car and who was still driving around his home in Hove, Sussex, until recently.

■ DRIVERS without no-claims discounts are being clobbered by insurers, according to a check by the AA. The price war means premiums for motorists with full no-claims will pay only 55 more on average this year, while those with third-party policies will pay an average £4 less. Without no-claims though. motorists face increases of up to 7 per cent, an average E3I a year more for both comprehensive and third-party premiums.

AUTOFAX by Les Evans and David Long

F THE 107 FORD GT40'S

BUILT, ONLY SEVEN WERE

ROAD CARS

THE ORIGINAL PERSCHE

FAMILY FIRM WAS CALLED

THE PERSCHE COMPANY TO

MAKE THURS WHICH MOVE ON LAND, IN THE AIR AND

ers are going to be offered the best possible incentive to take a few extra lessons, the chance to win a car.

The prize offer is part of a series of initiatives to cut casualties among young drivers, the most vulnerable group on Britain's roads. It will be a feature of a revised "Passplus" scheme which already offers insurance discounts to those who have just passed a test if they sign up for a special series of six extra lessons.

Bernard Herdan, chief executive of the Driving Standards Agency, says the revamped Pass-plus will be a "carnot" for young drivers to go with the "stick" of the Driver Act, the law under which drivers who

ARSHALL TITO, THE YLEOG

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Alan Copps on new insurance incentives and licence penalties

accumulate six or more penalty points within two years of passing the test will have to retake both the theory and practical tests. The DSA announced this week that the Driver Act would come into force from June 1.

"At present we get about 1,000 new drivers per month signing on for Pass-plus. That's quite a considerable contribution to safety but a small number when you take into account that 800,000 people a year pass the test," says Herdan

The extra lessons concentrate on things like motorway

driving and driving at night, situations which most learners never experience until after they have passed the test. The extra lessons cost on average about 580.7 says Herdan. At present under Pass-plus, insurance companies offer a

year to drivers who sign up. But under the revamped scheme, the incentives will be much greater. Companies will offer Passplus drivers a one-year noclaims bonus, which should

percentage discount for one

represent a saving of £100 or more per year for most young drivers, says Tony Baker, deputy director of the Association of British Insurers who has just become chairman of the Pass-plus board The draw for a car and other prizes like holidays will

be an additional encouragement to publicise the scheme much more widely," he says. "In addition, we are trying to negotiate a reduced excess for drivers who take the extra lessons." Another revision will allow young drivers to keep their entitlement to Pass-plus discounts for up to two years after they pass the test, if they cannot afford their own car

"it means if a 17-year-old passes the test in a parent's car, it is still worth signing up for Pass-plus, because if they save up and buy their own car when they are 19, they will get an immediate one year no-

claims bonus," says Baker. Mr Herdan says the Passplus incentives are a vital part of the carrot-and-stick approach. "It's a positive aspect to safety and leads to a noclaims discount which could save a driver money year after year." he says.

The Driver Act is the other side of the coin, a deterrent to youngsters who may be tempted to take risks. "In effect if they get six points on their licence they go back to zero," says Herdan. "We think this will bring tremendous peer pressure on young drivers. It's one thing to have penalty points. For them it would be a really big blow to have to go hack to L-plates."

Under the Act, introduced as a Private Member's Bill by Dr Michael Clark, Tory MP for Rochford, and given Government support, drivers who are penalised in this way will be able to apply to retake tests immediately, but even if they pass, the points will remain on their licence for the usual

temporary traiffic lights on Bliston Road. M5 junction 2: major roadworks closing the southbound entry slip-road and northbound exit slip-road

M6 junction 25-27; 50mph limit in both directions. A62 Chadderton; M66 construction work on Oktin

Road at the junction with Hollinwood Äve. M6 between Lancaste

Services and Junction 349a; contraffow and 50mph limit;

MI53 Junction 2; only one

iane open each way. M1 junctions 34-35; down:

and 50mph limit. A636 Wakefield; roadworks

with Denby Dale Road cio

unction with Ings Road.

A482 Upper Aberseron Bridge closed.

and the A487, where there are temporary traffic lights.

A470 north of Cein Coed;

temporary lights. A48 between Langstone and Penhow, temporary traffic

contraflow is in place between Aberdulais (A4230) and Neetb (A474).
A44 between Llangurig and, Esteddia Gurig, temporary

carriageway raduced to one lane in both directions for

roadworks between Swan and Lianelli. Long delays

contration between Pontymole and the Heron

Roundabout. Expect lengthy delays, especially from the A4042 direction.

A937 Montrose; roadworks

and restrictions in both

directions. M8 junction 2; lane

M4 junctions 23a-24;

contraflow. A465 north of Neath;

M4 junctions 47-48;

expected. A472 Pontypool;

• SCOTLAND

• WALES

M1 junction 47; readworks. Delays on M1, M621 and Dewsbury Road

to two lanes in both direc

NORTH

Bypass, Heavy congestion. Mi junction 2 major roadworks. No access to or from the A). A504; roadworks on Hendon Lane. A30 Hounslow, roadworks with single alternate lane traffic on Staines Road at on Stattles Hoad at Wellington Road North. A201 Southwark, off-peak (8am-6pm) resurfacing, A406 Upper Edmonton;

A3 Kingston; northbound lane closure on the Kingston

Road. A3212, Westminster, overnight at Weekends (Spm-Barn) Bridge Street and Victoria Embankment closed between Parliament Square and Westminster Bridge. A232 Wallington; roadworks and width

restrictions. SOUTH FAST
 A330 Ascot readworks
 and temposity lights.
 M40 junctions 1a-3; long-term robbt winks with a A23 Patcham; lane closures on allo-toads and local restrictions.
M27 junctions 8-10;
roadworks with lane closures and a contrations at times.
A41 Wattord; bridge work on North Western Avenue 30mph limit with

contraflow. A2 Camerbury, roadworld and various lane closures. M25 junctions 6-10; both ways. A3 near Guildford:

roadworks at Stag Hill flyover. **SOUTH WEST** A30 Victoria; temporary traffic lights. A35 Christchurch Bypess; lane closure between Fountair Way and Stony Lane M5 junction 13, only one lane open. M5 junctions 17-20; contraflow with 50mph limit. A303, Andover Bypass; off-peak and overnight lane. M5 junctions 20-19; one lane closed northbound.

B MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA A1 Alconbury Hills; reduced to one lane northbound. A38 Derby Southern Bypass; roadworks. A1 Great Ponton; lane closures. A464 Haughton; temporery lights around the Haughton Crossroads. Crossroads. A500 Stoke area; A34) and Longport.
A14 Kentford between
Kentford and Risby;

A41 Wolverbampton:

AB Princes Street, no motor vehicles. Diversions via South Charlotte Street, Queen Street and York Place.
A92 Tay Road Bridge;
maintenance work at the maintenance work at the bridges. Also lane closures Southbound. A90 Greenicaning; contraflow is in place, miles East of Durishare.
A737 between Linclive and the St. larges interchange; roadworks are in place and the carriageway is reduced to one lane in both ways. Also the Eastbound on-ramp at Unclive and the Westbound on-ramp at St James is closed



Ford could not sell them in 1969, so it left them in pieces. Vaughan Freeman on three lost classic racers

Brand new aged 30: the late great GT40s

world; ahead of such glamur-ous European names as

needed to build the final three

together with the moulds for

sic car medianic Paul Flem-ing Indeed the GT40 wheel by John Dunn in Swindon, who did much of the original GT40 engine development

One of the cars has already been built and is in America. The second is reserved for Willment's daughter Janet and should be completed in January, and the third should be completed by the middle of

100

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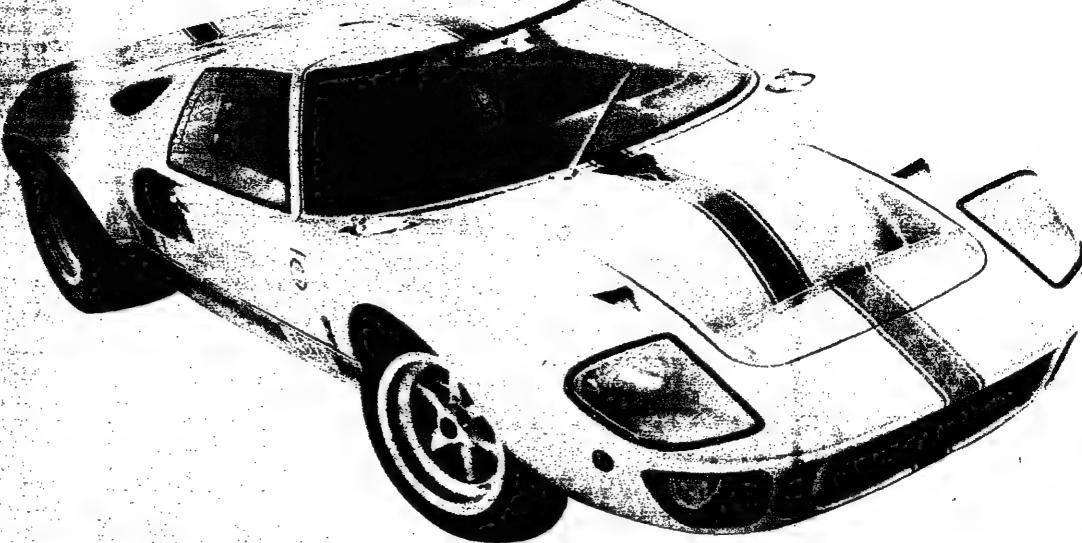
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this year. Wingfield says the new cars are about 90 per centoriginal. Some items, such as suspension parts which had been affected by corrosion, had to be replaced rather than renovated.

Nearly all the other stored parts could be refurbished to their original condition. The surprisingly small number of parts that could not be renovated were replaced by newly built components using manufacturers original drawings. the original moulds used for the bodies of the first 97 cars.



Cast from the past: newly built GT40's body was made in original moulds





Then: Ford takes Le Mans victory number three, left, in 1968, after its famous initial win. Now: one of the few remaining GT40s owned by the carmaker takes to the track on its 30th anniversary, right

pletes the limited production

run started all those years ago.

Can a price be put on the

"new" cars? Wingfield says:

"You cannot really price these

cars. I suppose a GT40 might

components, and carry the last three authentic chassis num-Wingfield says, "I had been badgering John Willment for

years to get the cars built, but he had always had something else on, and then about two years ago he eventually said 'yes', and then started the drudge of refurbishing all the

"I was running a Ford assembly line in Turkey when the GT40 was being developed and had to wait until the The bodies were shaped from autosport magazines arrived fibreglass composites, using each week to find out the each week to find out the

Once he was back in Brit-So, these are genuine ain, Wingfield wasted no time GT40s, not replicas, copies or gening involved, even becommecreations. They use original ing co-founder of the GT40

Owners' Club. Today he is "Mr GT40", and any inquiries about the cars are referred to him by Ford.

The main problem he restability at speed. calls was keeping the cars on the ground; they were the first to be able to run consistently at 200mph and above, "Basically they were aircraft trying to

"I remember when the first cars went to Le Mans in April 1964 for testing, and two of the cars just took off going down the Mulsanne Straight and went straight into the trees. One was destroyed completely and the other was used for research afterwards.

The significance of the GT40 was the advances it made technologically, and in terms

of its aerodynamics. Before the GT40, cars like Jaguar's D-Type had made do with an

ord's GT40, so named because the top of its roof is a mere 40 inches off the ground, revolutionised race car aerodynamics. The car was shaped so that, like an upside down

aircraft wing, it virtually sucks itself on to the tarmac for grip. Says Wingfield, "The GT40 was also really the first car to have been designed with the help of computers, especially

final three GT40s finally corp-

cost between £350,000 and £450,000, while the two-times Le Mans winner might go for five or six million pounds. "These cars are not replicas

in the use of computer-aided design for the suspension." For Wingfield, building the

uled to be built 30 years ago, and simply never were. We had three complete sets of all

the parts necessary. The cars existed, they simply had not been built up. Now they are, using most importantly of all, the original Le Mans engines."

The last three CTAP round

The last three GT40s round off a story started in 1964 when the first ones appeared. Despite being quick in the hands of drivers such as Graham Hill and Bruce McLaren, the original cars were not strong enough to last a full Le Mans, and the GT40s entered that

year all retired. In 1965 a GT40 won the

Daytona endurance race, but crush all opposition.

Le Mans success was still elusive and not one of the six year made it to the chequered flag. A year later, all changed, and in a sensational finish GT40s took first, second and third places in a blanket win to

The pattern was set. The GT40 won Le Mans in 1967 and 1968, and again in 1969 for win ever, when after 24 hours' racing, the icks/Olivier-driven car took the flag by a matter of seconds and 100 yards from a

Short life of a super Mini might've-been

Kevin Eason on the stunning new

successor Rover refuses to build

Mini for the next cen-Rover this week took the wraps of this concept car. which had lain, almost forgotten, in the corner of a design
studio belonging to Rover's

design to Rover's

design to would have raised unwanted expectations among poten-

Munich, Germany. was spotted by Tom Purves, sirve, out of sight of British former head of BMW in this items, journalists or, indeed, country and now Rover's director of sales and marketing. men in the motor industry, ordered the engineering team

to dust down the British- designed car and adapt it to help celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Mint's hat-trick cept vehicle - gives few clues of victories in the Monte Carlo fally, which was taking place

mis week. Unfortunately, the car, for all its styling impact, got 2 launch so low key it barely and cluster of foglamps, but this Mini gets a 115hhp 1.8-litre car business, even though

Purves wants it to be the first looks every inch the stage in raising the profile of the world's favourite "baby" car in the three years up to the launch of the new Mini. Instead of putting the car on

parent company, BMW, in tial buyers, the ACV30 was wheeled out at Monte Carlo Forgotten, that is, until it for a short demonstration any interested parties at all. An immense shame, for the Purves, one of the brightest ACV30 is ample demonstration that the spirit and excellence of design is alive and

well inside Rover. This car - the ACV in the title stands for advanced conto what the Mini for the millermium might look like. The face of the 38-year-old veteran is clearly discernible through the fat wheel arches K-series engine from the MGF



Classic looks shine through, but the ACV30 is a new design from the ground up

placed midships. Underneath. Mini being planned by BMW the front and rear subframes for production at Rover's giant also come from the MGF, linked to a spaceframe chassis devised by BMW. The body is hand-beaten aluminium while the rear is a hatch, unlike the current Mini's tiny boot

opening.
The interior is basic rally car: just two sculpted racing seats with harnesses, while the cabin is stripped down but features polished aluminium fascia beams and gearstick and a fascinating circular, centrally-mounted instrument duster, which echoes the centre speedometer of the

That cluster is probably the car which could emerge in the

we could live without. plant at Longbridge in Birmingham at the turn of the

century. The new car will be a conventionally front-engined car, with dimensions closer to the Ford Ka than the current 10-feet long Mini, following the trend towards larger ngines will be led by

a Chrysler-designed 1.4, made in South America and shared between the American company and Rover, while the car will likely to be loaded with gadgets and "big car" features, reflected in a price which will probably start £1,000 more expensive than today's Mini,

which is about £9,000 - one change for the millenium that

The ACV30 looks so much fun, it could probably generate its own niche among buyers happy to forego wood panelling for the exciting shape and basic but striking interior. But Rover says firmly that the ACV30 is nothing more than a study with no link to what COUNTRY THESE

So the stonning little rally car, which arrived suddenly and unannounced, will disappear from view just as suddenbreath to discover what the Mini for the next century will look like. We can only hope it



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ATT RIDAY JANUANA

a traffic warden? Eve-Ann Prentice goes to Hendon to discover the tricks of their trade

The meter maid's day is past. Parking's a serious business

the surrounding streets for s looking for a meter, may be a er bank manager or solicitor. et all sorts," says Baines. "I be a print worker, then I an advert seeking traffic a recruits and I have never ed back. I wish I had done it 20 ago because now I look rard to coming to work.

here is a misconception that all nbers of the public hate traffic panders of the phone. "But only a all percentage scream and ashout the vast majority understand fully that we are trying to maintain the free flow of traffic. If a motorist comes along, stops where he shouldn't and thinks whoops, here comes a traffic warden', 99 per cent

recruited as traffic wardens in London in 1961. The first women wardens patrolled the streets of Leicester from March, 1961, and were billed as issuing tickets "in the friendliest manner. But it was not until 1965 that women wardens immortalised when Paul McCartney sang his love for "Lovely Rita, meter maid - appeared in

The system governing parking tickets is undergoing a radical change with local authorities being given the option to decriminalise parking offences. And this is where the parking attendants come in. hired by councils. So far, many London boroughs and Oxford and Winchester have opted to employ their own attendants, and an unknown number of other authori-

man was coy about revealing the figure: "Until they have done so, we can't say how many."

There are around 1,500 parking attendants in London. Their introduction caused uproar when Westminster became the first London borough to employ them about five years ago - and paid them bonuses if they issued more

than a certain number of tickets. Now all that has changed, according to a spokesman for the Parking Committee for London, which is responsible for the attendants. "They are not paid according to the number of tickets they issue. the spokesman said. That said, they are regularly appraised and the number of tickets would be taken into account. We also set parking attendants."

London's 1,400 traffic wardens, on the other hand, undergo a fiveweek training course, and one practical and two written exams to cope with ever more complex road regulations and the city's network of Red Routes.

The traffic wardens' classroom at Hendon is reached via a staircase where guns are displayed in a wallcase, presumably on a floor where less prosaic police skills are taught. A desk laden with pamphlets in the wardens' classroom gives a hint of the workings of the modern traffic warden's mind: there are manuals on law, lost and found property, bus stops, bomb awareness and interpersonal skills.

Joanne Sibthorpe, who also teaches wardens, says: "Huge changes have taken place in the

can involve a warden asking someone to surrender their driving licence. The days of the meter maid

are over. According to Baines, there is a "stringent selection process" for anyone wanting to join the London wardens' beat. "People who answer the advertisements are invited for a one-day selection for training," he says. "They are tested on written and numerical skills, have a medi-

cal and a security check."

Those who join the five-wee course spend the first formight learning the theory, and the final three weeks out on attachment to a working traffic warden unit. About 1.5 per cent of those who embark on the course drop out, many of these because they are not keen on the uniform, according to Baines. Once qualified, annual pay rates for a 42-hour working week start at 19,200. although wardens are lobbying for

a pay rise. Can traffic wardens show mercy if they believe an offence is being committed? "We do have discretion," says Baines, but only until we start writing. Once the number is on a ticket, it becomes a court document and we are obliged to

issue the ticket." Not that getting ticketed should be any excuse for tantrums. At the Parking Committee for London the last resort for the capital's aggrieved motorists - calm and good humour abound.

Twenty thousand people went there to appeal against parking tickets in 1995 and about half won their cases. Motorists in the rest of the country may soon have their

own parking committees. The Parking Committee is undoubtedly among the most userfriendly tribunals in the country. Appellants are given appoint-ments. They sit not in a dock but across a desk from the adjudicator, they are not humiliated by arcane

courtroom practice. Hearings are held on selected days from Sam to Spm to suit most shift patterns, costs are not normally awarded and nearly everyone presents their own case.



Trailie wardens are part of the police force, have a wonderful relationship with most of the public and their main aim in life is to make life easier for all of us. At least that is what they tell you at Hendon police training college

We have to move from the idea of one person per vehicle'

idea of reducing road use and cutting traffic congestion.

Certainly: he says, someting needs to be done to "Minibuses running often restrict car use if not owner can be already and the car be already and transship. Britain's current car population of more than 24 million as forecast to rise by as

millionis forecast to rise by as much a state of cent over the next 15 to 9 years, at a time when the road saiding has never been go.

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Listening to 5 to 10 years from such a person, a parage to the said next to the said next to the said next to the said of the said next to the said of the said next to the said of the said

He believes in the need for the travelling public to switch the private car to improved, flexible public transport, while simultaneously inchanging the coned and the simultaneously inchanging the coned and the same highway for a home transport. But he does not better such a revolution will be the railways simply ramor compete on price. believe such a revolution will

Bage car sales. Reilly says: This is a bit of a obbit horse of mine. We have be to reduce people's need to lenc, and we must do more to nd on to other forms of

We need more park and indeed that there should be more cars owned per household than now, but that household than now, but that household than now.

ludicrous, and I think we will

car and such modes of transport need to be encouraged. perhaps coupled with extremely heavy tolls for driving into towns and maybe a ban on cars from cities." He says Britain's depen-

dence on roads for moving freight is one example of how road traffic can be lightened: We fully support the role of mas" springs unitable to mind. Yet Reilly denotinat his view of a more entering the railway system rather than by mentally friendly approach to mad. In my view the amount mass transport is a timest of freight carried on the rail-linguised economic suiced way here is far lower than it should be, and certainly far the rail network, and want to over than it is in other

So, we are fully committed to other forms of transport. but I do not think we will lose a single car sale as a result. People will always want a car hern out of the private car for their freedom and for their own personal use." He believes people will still buy cars, indeed that there should be

for different purposes, and that not all of them will be out on the roads at the same time. Car buyers, he says, should not have to use their cars for

the boring drudge of trafficcongested commuting, but for pleasure and weekends away on roads freed of traffic by a rail, and improved public The philosophy fits in with

the marketing strategy of Vauxhall and most of its major competitors, who increasingly ries" or "niche models" suitable for specific leisure activities but not necessarily ideal for everyday use.

He is under no illusions, however, of how difficult it will be to convince car users to take the bus, tram or train: When we changed the shift patterns at one of our UK plants, one of the main objections came from workers who complained that it would disrupi thèir car-sharing arrangements.

"So, we introduced a free bus scheme to pick up staff at designated collection points. After about three months we had to cancel the service herause there were only two or three people on each bus." Everybody else he said was driving into work, alone, in their own cars.

Despite that disappoint-ment, Reilly hopes the Vauxhall staff who can work



"Is your journey really necessary, Sir?" Reilly urges punitive tolls for town drivers

from home will take up an experiment designed to reduce the amount of time they spend simply travelling to and from their offices. "We are not talking here

about people working perma-nently from home. There are difficulties in such a scheme. in arranging meetings, for example, so as to ensure there will be enough people physi-cally in the office when a

"For certain staff also we would need to equip them with computer equipment, fax equipment and modems, which is not possible for everyone." Even so, he bees it will be possible for up to 1,000 white-collar staff to spend one day a month work-

Longer term, and with a view to an increase in the use of the sort of park-and-ride schemes that Reilly looks on

favourably, Vauxhall plans to concentrate on small vans and 12 and 15-seat mini-buses. Reilly says: "Vans are coming back quite strongly. With congestion in cities increasing, we believe we have to move away from the idea of one person per vehicle, and towards people movers' or vans".

Such vehicles could, he believes, play a vital role in transport systems.



City wardens aren't enough. Total bans may be needed

SATURDAY JANUARY 25 1997 MITSUBISHI LOTUS LEFT HAND DRIVE SHOGUN 23 CLS 7 libr Fracal LWB Auto, 1967 at ments and most blue, coronam built care and story, tearn or lower, and mujor, Laws note that were 129,500, as now \$22,750 Pt watcome \$100.4 76,1960 Y HONDA JAGUAR & DAIMLER FERRARI FLAT ELAN S2. S ZORO PUTEROTORIS CRITICOLISTORIA BELLINOS Limited edition injection. XJ6 3.2 PRELUDE COUPE 16V CONTINENTAL FERRARI CAR HIRE 95 M, 12,000 miles, FLSH. 4dr, new shape, 3.8 litra, auto, J reg, 65,000m, metallic TURBO 2 0x M reg, 1 owner, FSH Silver, AC, alloys, extras, menu guaraniee 3yrs, Pristine. 10 disc CD, leather seats. V: A: L'E-NIT I N E S = GI F-T 95N, Black metallic MSSAN 18 Mars Guera leather interior, 16K mim condition, £24,500. ed, leather intend. superb. AUTHORISED £12,950 LEXUS Inence & PX welcom 0181-567 6557 £16,000 ono. FERRAKI 108GTS - 126GTS - DINO 246 GTS DEALERS £13,995. Teb0171 352 4513. £7.250ano. 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CARMANT: YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S NEW, AND WHAT'S USED, ON THE FORECOURTS

Belting new automatics

CARS WITH automatic transmission are slower and thirster than manuals, so motoring wisdom says. Not-necessarily, Roger Bell writes. Honda fitted an experimental Williams Formula One car with continuously variable transmission (CVI) — banned as technical overkill — which was faster than Damon Hill's regular six-specter. For its production CVT. Honda claims the same performance as a manual in skilled hands

and with no fuel penalty.

CVT has been around since DAF pioneered its crude (but effective) belts and pulleys ar-rangement in the Spoies. It came of age when fairing belts were superseded by seed belts that pushed in compression (rather than ingged in ten-sion). The new system uses pulleys that expand and con-tract in diameter to provide

continuous ratio changes.

Once restricted by torque limitations to cheap, low-powered cars. CVT is now moving upmarket into the sub-medium sector. Honda's claim that its 1)5bhp Civic 1.6i ES is the most powerful CVT yet might be challenged by former partner Rover, which claims superior performance for its 109bhp 216SLi CVT.

Subjectively there's little to choose between the Hondadeveloped CVT in the Civic and Rover's Belgian-made

ROADTEST

version. Both cars accelerate with zeal, engines thrumming busily at constant revs while the road speed "catches up". You soon adjust to the curiously monotonous drone Al-though Rover claims better performance, the Civic feels the livelier car, especially with the selector in S (for sport) to lower the gearing and raise the revs. The Rover has no

It's the easy access provided by CVT to peak performance that makes these cars so quick off the mark and eager to overtake. Back off and the transmission selects overdrive, keeping fuss, noise and fuel consumption in check. Both cars make excellent motorway cruisers.

THE TROUBLE with most previous CVTs is that they jerked and surged when moving off and stopping. These new-generation models are much smoother. The Rover snaps into gear a bit abruptly and pulls hard against the brakes when idling. A minor snag with the Honda is that its touch-sensitive throttle demands delicacy when parking. On the move, though, progress is impressively refined in both cars.



Forget DAFs, Rover and Honda's CVTs are equal on the basis of their transmission

much to choose between the rivals. However, the Honda's

extra length gives it a decisive advantage in rear legroom, if not boot space. The difference only underlines the odd inbetween sizing of the Rover 200. I preferred the Civic's embracing front seats and low-set driving position, but the Rover has the meatier steering and plusher trim. It also isolates tyre noise much better than the Honda, at its thrummy worst on coarse

chippings. Honda's new CVT is initially available only in the three-door Civic 1.6iES. Convenstepped autos are retained for the four-door saloon and five-door hatch.

CIVIC 1.6iES

Engine: four cyclinder, 16-valve, 1.590cc producing 115bhp.

Transmission: Front wheel drive through continously variable automatic transmission system.

Performance: 010 60mph in 10.4 seconds, top speed 106mph. Economy: 42.8mpg.

EC combined cycle. Price: £14,645.

SPARE PARTS

SALES OF personalised registration numbers topped 100,000 for the first time last year - an annual increase of 72 per cent and worth £37 million. There are still plenty of numbers left to choose from: the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency says that it has five million potential combi-nations, with 90 per cent priced at below £250. Call the clesales hotline for information, on 0181-200-6565.



YOU WILL notice a bathing-costume-clad youth with surfboard, lounging against the vehicle in our picture. Cynics will conclude he is a builder on an unofficial afternoon off. Actually he is posing with the new Volkswagen Caddy Pickup, which the young generation might consider to enjoy an exciting outdoor lifestyle. Why not? Engine is a modest 64bhp 1.9litre diesel, insurance will be low and basic price is £6,995.



Surf's up: VW's Pickup

PRICES of Vauxhall cars have gone up by an average 1.7 per cent, although some models - such as the Tigra, Vectra 2-litre GLS and SRi versions and Omega CD and CDX V6 models - remain the same. That means the Astra 1.6LS five-door goes up by £125 to £12,995, the Corsa 1.2LS by £220 to £8,870 and the Vectra 1.8iLS by £340 to £14,960. Subaru, Ssanyong and Isuzu models also go up in price on the road by an average £20 from February 1 because of import costs and budget



EEP CHEROKEE

JEEP CHEROKEE
In America, tans wear T-shirts which read: "You wouldnt understand-it's a Jeep thing." But the "Jeep thing" is spreading. The Cherokee was launched here in 1993 and sales instantly outstripped even the manufacturer's most optimistic expectations. That famous Jeep name, the legend born during the Second World War, and perpetuated by films such as MASH has spread the word that Jeeps are four-wheel drive machines removed for toughness and off-road capabilities. The Cherokee is also carving a name as a more comfortable and better-performing road car than its rivals.

GOOD NEWS central locking, power steering, power windows, tinted glass and

heated mirrors, as well as a good stereo, alloy wheels and highly rated Wrangler All-Terrain tyres for AVOID
Cars with tatty or damaged load areas, paint along the flank damaged by bushes or thoms and damaged alloy wheats, which are expensive to replace. Cherokee cornes with these workfoll Oracle warrants.

2.5-litre turbo-diesel engine version, quicker than the 2.5-litre petrol version and makes good off-road sense thanks to extra pulling power at low revs. For style, the jet black 4-litre Steatth special edition is hard to beat. Limited edition cars offer air conditioning, cruise control and leather seats.

cover from AA
insurance (0800
444777) on a 1993
4.0 Limited Cherokee
costs a 55-year old professional
mate, living in Winchester with full
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comprehensive; similar female Like most off-roaders, the Cherokee is massively strong. High driver's position gives excellent view of the road end potential hazards and all-whee drive makes the car exceptionally sale in motoring conditions where braking and cometing on ice, rain, or snow can be treacherous in a two-wheel-drive car.

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PARTS
(Prices include VAT);
Clutch assembly £135;
full exhaust £285;
tostalytic converter £485; front
braicepads (pair) £50; headlamp

pays £282. A 22-year old male, with year's no claims in south London pays £2,261; a similar female £2,192.

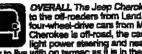
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£17,000 the pair.

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VEHICLES



Expect to pay £11,250 for 1993 K-reg 2.5 Sport estate, £14,000 for a 1993 4.0 Limited auto. £15,000 for a 1993 4.0 Limited £10,750 for a 1994 L-reg 4.0 Limited, £20,250 for a Grand Cherokee 1994 L-reg 5.2-litre V8 and £19,750 for a 1996 N-reg 4.0 Limited.

low for an off-roader can cramp headroom for latter drivers. The

four-litre, six-cylinder engine might give excellent performance but, matched to an automatic gearbox as standard, is thirsty for fuel.

a three-year/60,000-mile warranty so look for younger cars still covered by the manufacturer with

Cover from AA

OVERALL The Jeep Cherokee poses a challenge, not only to the off-roaders from Lend Rover but also to the excellent four-wheel-drive cars from Mitsubishi. As good as the Cherokee is off-road, the car, with its classically American light power staering and man-salcon car performance, is as

A6 UTE

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in excess £2,500.

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MIRAD APPROVED

REGISTRATIONS 4

Value classics: the E-Type and VW Golf

ANY SHORTLIST of most beautiful cars ever must include the Jaguar E-type, Voughan Freeman writes. With prices now at sensible levels, the E-Type is attracting genuine buyers rather than speculators, reports the CAP

Launched in 1961 and built

205 GTI

1.6, 1991 H. New engine with guerantee, Graphic Grey, excellent condition A clean example of this

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Master of ceremonies returns

most famous marques in British motoring, is to live again more than 40 years after the cars disappeared from the showrooms. In the finest traditions of prestige motoring which the Lea-Francis name evokes, the new car will make not the slightest conces-

sion to modern automotive trends. Instead, the man behind the marque's rebirth, Hugh Price, is planning a seven-seat, five-and-a-half-litre VI2 limousine priced at up to £180,000, complete with division between the chauffeur and the rear passengers, seated three abreast on a bench seat plus two fold-down jump seats.

Bulletproof glass and armourplating will be among the optional extras which, less alarmingly, will also include a cocktail cabinet.

The car will also continue the traditional method of bespoke hand-crafted building, with the aluminium bodywork made to order around a separate chassis. Fittings will be of stainless steel. with contrasting wood veneers and fabrics such as leather upholstery and wool headcloth. The various versions to be offered will include Landaulette and Sedanca de Ville. For those who want to design their own car, Lea-Francis will supply a separate chassis upon which customers can fit bodywork.

Standard equipment will include power steering, anti-lock brakes, self-levelling suspension and dual-control air conditioning so that those in the front and rear compartments can each set their own levels of comfort.

ie Lea Francis (um began life in the last century building "high class" bicycles, and the marque celebrated its centenary in 1995. The transition from leg-powered two-wheelers to engine-powered four-wheelers came in 1903 when the first Lea-Francis motor car took to the nation's then empty roads — a year before Rover and Rolls-Royce staged their automotive debuts.

The company established itself as a maker of medium-sized sports ourers with the emphasis on prestige, but was soon also building larger four-door saloons. A major technological advance came in 1927 with the launch of the Lea-Francis Hyper, the first supercharged car produced for the British market, which enjoyed much success on the racetrack.

The company's dedication to innovation continued, and a decade after the arrival of the Hyper. Lea-Francis introduced the most efficient engine of any car in the

British market. The years following the Second World War, however, hit British car builders hard. Lea-Francis was no exception. Serious production of cars ceased in 1953. That was not the death of the Lea-Francis name however: almost a decade after the vehicles ceased to be built, the firm's stock and spare parts, plus the name, were bought by Hugh

The Price company of Studley. which specialises in servicing and refurbishing luxury cars, has been a lifeline to Lea-Francis owners. able to supply as-new parts dating all the way back to the 1920s, for their cherished vehicles.

Price's commitment to the Lea-Francis is such that he built a handful of Lea-Francis Ace of Spades cars, a 3.5-litre two-door coupé which blended modern automobile technology with grand tourer styling reminiscent of pre-





Hugh Price has shown his commitment to reviving the Lea-Francis name by building a handful of Ace of Spades cars — 35-litre two-door coupés blending modern technology and prewar styling

further, and the Warwickshirebased Lea-Francis Cars firm has joined forces with the highly regarded Park Sheet Metal Company, known for its skill in bespoke car-body building, to make the Lea-Francis live again with the planned limousine.

However commendable the dream though, are the commercial hopes for such a car in today's

motoring world not a little on the thin side? Mr Price's son Barrie thinks not "We believe that, from our collective experience of the limousine market, and discussions with a sample of potential clients, we can set a target net price of £160,000 to £180,000, intended to generate initial sales of between 15

and 20 cars a year." Hugh Price says: "The use of

separate chassis allows for maxi-mum flexibility of coachwork design, and orders for open or semiopen styles can be accommodated

without major structural change." Hugh Price believes that the demise of classic, prestigious and downright large limousines like the Daimler and the Rolls-Royce Phantom VI has left an opportunity in a select niche market: "This is

a car that we will engineer to meet the customer's individual require-

ments," he says. We are convinced that there is a market for these cars. At Lea-Francis Cars we already have a lot of experience in the repair and restoration of Rolls-Royce cars for example, including work on the Phantom VI belonging to the Corporation of London.

demand for such cars for ceremonial uses, especially one that offers the sort of headroom that modern imousines cannot. Also, in an age where people are happy to hire a Ferrari for £400 a day, I am convinced that people, perhaps taking a party to Henleyapt Ascot, would like the chance to hire a car.

like the Lea-Francis limousine."

What is your most hated car?

Anything which is not Italian

What is your dream car?

Mr Price hopes the commercial possibilities of the car, as well the glamour and heritage of the Lea-Francis name, will enfice investors into helping make it a reality tion of the car hangs on us trying to attract investment from outside. If we can gather a small amount of support we can try to have the first car ready in two years' time."

Record-breaking Italian horseracer Frankie Dettori reveals to Andrew Pierce how he has promised himself a Ferrari if he ever wins the Ascot Derby

Jockey who dreams of a prancing horse (preferably in red)

champion jockey in 1994, and has now clocked-up more than 1,200 winners. Last September he reduced the bookies to tears. Seven rides for Dettori and seven winners.

The last race finished with the diminutive jockey beaming and hurtling around the Ascot winners' enclosure spraying out champagne. more like the winner of a Formula One grand prix than

a victor at the "sport of kings". The last race was over but no one had gone home. All 20.000 racegoers had stayed to watch history being made Even the reading of the football results on the BBC only got as far as the Scottish First Division before it was interrupted for live coverage of the

COLUMN

Cars have had a definitive impact on his life. In May 1993 he had been partying at a nightclub in the West End of London when he was pulled over by the police. The police discovered a small amount of cocaine in the well of the door

of his silver Mercedes. He escaped with a caution but the affair cost him dear. He lost a £200,000 racing contract in Hong Kong where jockeys are treated like royalty. From that moment on he worked hard to perfect the talent that he had inherited from his father, who was a champion jockey in Italy.

Dettori has never been conventional. He has been sustwice for over-

And he breached royal protocol when he held the Queen's hand throughout a presentation for the winner of the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe.

"What a nice person the Queen is. She did not pull away." he said.

How did you first learn to

On my Vespa. I moved here from Italy as a teenager but like all Italians I love the scooter. The Vespa is a fashion symbol there. I turned up for my first day's work with Luca Cumani in Newmarket on a battered scooter. I was mucking out and cleaning the feed

My real name is Lanfranco. The stable lads christened me Frankie. The name has stuck.



Dettori with one of his two Alfa Romeos. He will only drive Italian-built cars

But after a few years mucking out I left behind the beloved Vespa and graduated to a fully fledged driver's licence.

What was your first car? A Toyota. Happily the details

are lost in the mists of time. L

lasted only four months. Hardly a long-stayer.

What car do you drive now and why?

I have two cars. An Alfa Romeo GTV which is for general day-to-day driving. I

also have an Alfa Romeo 164. which is a real workhorse:

which I use with Catherine,

my fiancée

Do you like driving?

Yes, of course, I do I am

What infuriates you most about other drivers? I not only like to set a cracking

the car?

have a driver

pace on the turf. So naturally, am inforiated when they drive too slow in the fast lane.

board control panel. My other

bad habit is constantly falling

asleep. But that is only when I

What is the most unusual thing you have done in your-

to say I was looking at a shop window at the time. I remember the shop well. It was a Gucci store. My favourite.

Have you ever had points on your licence?

Having presented Top of the Pops and modelled for a high-I will be honest. I lost my street store, my biggest dream licence for 28 days for speeding now is to win the Derby aton the motorway. I was It would be a dream come clocked at 104mph.

true to win it. If I did I would What do you listen to in the buy my dream car; a Ferrari.

What is your worst habit in Radio One. Cassette tapes and compact discs. Simply Red I am always fiddling around and Mick Hucknall are my

with the buttons on the dashfavourite. If you were Secretary of State for Transport, what is the first

thing you would do? Widen the motorways. Then I would not be so infortated with slow drivers dawdling in

the fast lane. What is your favourite car

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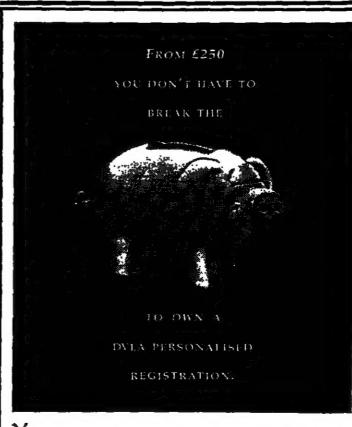
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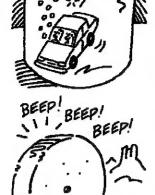
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CAR TOONS

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Saxo gets a dose of salts

The hot hatch returns with an

extra surprise for boy racers: it's a Citroën,

says Alan Copps

hink of a fast supermini and the names which spring to mind are Ford Fiesta, Volkswagen Polo or Peugeot 106. Somehow the name of Peugeot's sister company Citroën doesn't figure on the hot-hatch agenda, until now, The hottest mini in town is now a Citroen. The VTS version of the Saxo, introduced last year as successor to the long-serving AX, gets from 0 to 60mph in just 7.2 seconds, that's a second faster than the 106GTi and faster than any Jaguar saloon except the supercharged version. Top speed

is a claimed 127mph.

And the next-fastest mini on the market? Well that's probably the slightly slower Saxo VTR which takes 9.3 seconds to reach 60 mph, still faster than either the 16-valve Polo or Fiesta Si.

These new Citroens are the answer to the prayers of those who lament the demise of the hot hatch, the souped-up minis be-loved of boy racers of the 1980s, who bought them or, too often sadly dispensed with the formality of handing over money, thus contributing to their near extinction by punitive insurance rates a

Thanks largely to improved security and safety equipment the hot hatch is beginning to make a comeback. But the Citroën Saxo is an unlikely contender to find at the top of the class. In its more basic form, the Saxo is a pleasant little car perfect for town, its light and precise power-assisted steering provides maximum assistance at ow speeds and makes parking especially easy. Its ride lives up to Citroën's reputation for ironing out the bumps.

It doesn't offer the looks or interior refinement of rivals like the Fiesta or Polo, but nor is it as quirky as Citroens once were. If



VTS exterior is restrained; though the flared arches and alloy wheels hint at sportiness, the badging is positively discreet

that makes it less-appealing to the die-hard enthusiast who thinks all Citroens should be like the big ones and float along on hydropneumatic cushions, it also makes it more effective and surprising as a small wolf in

rom the outside, both the VTS and the VTR are lower and squatter than the regular Saxo. Flared wheel arches and alloy wheels are enough to indicate their sporty nature to those in the know, although there is nothing flashy about the exterior and the badging is positively discreet. A wider track offers greater stability and gives the handling utter predictability even at high speed without making the ride too harsh. It is several degrees firmer than the standard car, but in a model that can be driven with a great deal more enthusiasm the extra feedback from the road is needed.

CITROEN SAXO VTS

Engine: four-cylinder, 16-valve, 1.6-litre producing 120bhp at 6,600rpm.

Transmission: Five-speed manual. Performance: Max speed 127mph; 0-60mph in 7.2 seconds. Economy: Urban 24.8mpg; extra-urban 44.8mpg; combined

cycle 34.9mpg. Equipment: twin airbags, anti-lock brakes, power steering, slide-and-tilt sunroof, electric windows, remote central locking, keypad immobiliser. Price: £12,620 on the road.

A few wet laps of Brands Hatch (where better to test a hot hatch?) were enough to establish the VTS's credentials as a spirited performer. The 16-valve 1.6litre engine revs freely beyond the 7,000rpm mark yet pulls smoothly from a little over 1,000rpm. It was possible to complete a lap of this tightly twisting and surprisingly hilly circuit in the rain without changing from fourth gear, but a great deal more fun to make full use of the smooth five-speed change and keep up the revs.

Even in my relatively inexperienced hands, the car stuck to its line at speed, despite some provocative braking on the blind brow of Paddock bend. In the hands of an instructor from the circuit's race driving school we were getting round the long Clearways curve at 95mph. The VTR, with its 8-valve

REGISTRATION NO'S.

engine giving 90bhp at 5,600rpm, is not quite so entertaining as the free-revving 16valve but still provides impressive acceleration and has a claimed top speed of 116mph. On the road both these hot

hatches are just as well mannered as lower-powered versions until driven hard when the engine responds rapidly to the demands of cornering and overtaking.

The new additions give the

Saxo one of the widest ranges in the supermini market. With nearly 10,000 sold since its introduction last year, the variations now include everything from automatics and frugal die-sels to these speedy little cars likely to appeal to much younger

But the rejuvenated hot hatch has grown up. These cars boast a level of equipment, safety and security that is well in excess of the spartan GTis of a previous generation.

DR DASHBOARD

Why weren't police cameras a flash idea?

Hall knew those speed cameras were a ploy to wheedle money out of poor motorists. Now we discover the police can't afford to run them. Good - serves 'em right.

Actually the cameras have done their job.

Accidents have been reduced by up to a third on some roads, saving the accident and emergency services millions of pounds. So they were not so bogus, after all.

Fair enough. But why can't the police afford to run them when they have been mabbing drivers for £40 fines each time? That must be worth a fortune.

Around £30 million a year - but the police don't get the cash. That goes direct to the Treasury, so it's a nice little earner for the Government, not the boys in blue, who only administer the £27,000 machines.

Will the Government lose money if the police switch off the cameras or raise the limits at which they record speeders?

It might happen, because the police cannot afford to process the paperwork. The cameras were so successful that prosecutions jumped from 156,000 in 1995 to more than 255,000 last year. Thank God the film didn't go to Boots for processing or you might never have your holiday snaps back.

O Does that mean we are still not slowing down, even when we know that these cameras are balefully staring at us?

Apparently not. Drivers have a strange attitude to speeding, as this week's Lex Report on Motoring showed. More than half the people questioned believe there should be more cameras, with four in ten wanting police to charge on the spot fines. Contrast that hard line with findings that a third of drivers don't bother to slow down even when they see a speed camera. Presumably, they beam a wide smile for the flashlight as they hurtle past. Another third slow down in range — and then bang the throttle down again.

See what you mean. And this bad behaviour and double-standard motoring will get worse, do you think?

Bad enough already. Lex showed nothing happened to 66 per cent of motorists who were caught on camera and another 13 per cent in the survey received notification but were not followed up. Maybe the tight-fisted Treasury should hand over some of their illgotten gains from motorists back to the police to keep the cameras flashing.

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